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TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL RE-UNION

OF THE

Oregon Pioneer Association;

AND THE

ANNUAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. MATTHEW P. DEADY,

TOGETHER WITH

THE ADDRESSES BY HON. J. W. NESMITH, EX-GOV. GEO. L. CURRY, AND HON. GEO. P. HOLMAN.

AND A

Biography of Col. Jos. L. Meek.

SALEM, OREGON:
E. M. WAITE, PRINTER AND BOOKBINDER.
1876.

Compliments of Judge Deady

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THE ADDRESSES BY HON. J. W. NESMITH, HON. GEO. P. HOLMAN, AND OF EX-GOV. GEO. L. CURRY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 1873,

AND A

BIOGRAPHY OF COL. JOS. L. MEEK.

SALEM, OREGON:
E. M. WAITE, PRINTER AND BOOKBINDER.
1876.

PREFACE.

It is a source of gratification to the Printing Committee, that they are enabled to present this the second annual publication of the Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association, and the addresses delivered at the third re-union held on the State Agricultural Society's Grounds near Salem, June 15, 1875. The re-union proved a grand success, both financially and socially, and a large number of Pioneers availed themselves of the opportunity to become members of the Association; and it is earnestly hoped that the remainder of the Pioneers who are eligible, will secure a membership, so that the Association's roll will contain the names of all of those who came and settled within the bounds of the original Territory of Oregon, either by sea or across the plains.

The addresses of Hons. M. P. Deady, J. W. Nesmith and Ex-Gov. Geo. L. Curry, contain a great deal of history, and will be perused with interest. The address of Ex-Gov. Curry was delivered at Champoeg, at the first re-union of the Association, but the copy not being furnished, was not printed in the pamphlet of 1875, consequently the committee have placed it in this year's report.

The biography of the late Col. Joseph L. Meek, was furnished by Mrs. F. F. Victor, by request.

E. N. COOKE,
S. F. CHADWICK,
WILLARD H. REES,
JOHN MINTO,
J. HENRY BROWN,
Committee.

P11228

To the Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Pioneer Association:

Your committee appointed to arrange programme of exercises for the annual re-union of the Pioneer Association for 1875, would report the following:

EXERCISES AT THE FAIR GROUNDS.

The procession will form under the direction of the Chief Marshal, Col. John McCracken, at 10 o'clock, A. M., June 15, 1875, on the plank walk extending East from the railroad track, at the Fair Grounds, in the following order:

1st. Northwest Band.
2d. Standard Bearers.
3d. President and Vice President.
4th. Chaplain and Orator.
5th. Members of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon.
6th. Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.
7th. Invited guests, male and female.
8th. Members of the Society, male and female, who came into the Territory prior to January, 1841, followed by the twelve divisions to January 1853, each division with appropriate banner.
9th. Friends of the Association, male and female.

AT THE STAND.

1st. Music—Hail Columbia.
2d. Prayer by the Chaplain—Rev. E. Walker.
3d. Annual Address by Hon. Matthew P. Deady.
4th. Music.
5th. Recess.

AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

1st. 1 o'clock, Picnic Dinner.
2d. 2 o'clock, Musical Entertainment in the Pavilion, by the Pioneer young ladies and gentlemen.
3d. Address by Hon. J. W. Nesmith, and others.
4th. At 5 o'clock, dancing in the pavilion.
5th. At 7 o'clock, annual election of officers of the Association.
6th. At 8 o'clock, Pioneer LOVE FEAST.

The following persons have been selected as Floor Managers of the Pioneer ball:

Walter S. Moss,—Oregon City.
M. L. Savage,—Salem.
D. Thompson,—Albany.
F. C. Geer,—Butteville.
Ex-Gov. Geo. L. Curry,—Portland.
John Thompson,—Eugene City.
Edward Taylor,—Astoria.
Erastus Holgate.—Corvallis.
Chris. Taylor,—Dayton.
James Applegate,—Yoncalla.

The sale of intoxicating liquors and games of chance on the ground, positively prohibited.

In order that there will be complete success of the picnic dinner, it is requested that when convenient, the Pioneers bring their baskets with them.

The Pioneers throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho Territories are cordially invited.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. HERREN,

Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted.

Hon. E. N. Cooke, Chairman of Committee on Printing, made a verbal report, stating that the committee had had 2,000 copies of the pamphlet containing Constitution and By-Laws, the remarks of Gov. L. F. Grover, with the Annual Address of Hon. S. F. Chadwick, and a history of the Provisional Government by Hon. J. Quinn Thornton, instead of 500 as first designed by the Association, and that the printing bill was $284.

The question of disposing of the pamphlet was discussed by all of the members present, and on motion, the action of the committee in regard to sending copies to be sold at the bookstores in Salem and Portland was endorsed, and that copies should be sent to all old Pioneers, and that each member who had heretofore joined or should join subsequently, should receive a copy when

he paid the amount required at the time of joining, and that the Secretary keep in his office 250 copies for future use.

The President and Secretary were authorized to extend special invitations to old Pioneers.

On motion, the Printing Committee was instructed to place 100 copies of the pamphlet in the hands of the committee to collect money in the city of Salem.

On motion of Hon. E. N. Cooke, the Committee on Printing was authorized to present 50 copies of the pamphlet to Hon. J. Quinn Thornton.

On motion of W. J. Herren, Hon. S. F. Chadwick was added to the Committee on Printing, and instructed to send copies to old Oregonians.

On motion of Mr. J. N. Matheny, the President was authorized to extend special invitations to the Territorial officers of Washington and Idaho Territories to attend our re-union.

On motion, John W. Minto was authorized to solicit membership of those eligible.

On motion, the Committee of Arrangements were authorized to act when necessary, where they had not been fully instructed, as occasion might require.

On motion, the Board adjourned.

J. W. GRIM, *President.*

J. HENRY BROWN, *Sec'y pro tem.*

THIRD ANNUAL RE-UNION.

STATE FAIR GROUNDS,
SALEM, June 15, 1875.

The third annual re-union of the Oregon Pioneer Association, was held at the State Fair Grounds near Salem, June 15, 1875, under very favorable circumstances. At an early hour, a vast concourse of the early settlers attended by their families and friends, began to arrive. The different roads were lined with wagons containing participants, who were anxious to join in the exercises of the State holiday, and while the different trains from the north and south materially swelled the throng, as they discharged their precious freight. Hearty greetings were exchanged by friends who had not met for years, old acquaintances were renewed, whose long separation had nearly obliterated their remembrance; although they had traversed the sandy plains in each other's company. The patriarchs although young then, now had grown old and gray in pioneer life, were surrounded by their children and children's children, who were assuming their position in the development of this young and thriving State, making a happy occasion, which, to be properly appreciated, should be witnessed.

Punctual to the hour of 10 o'clock, A. M., Col. John McCracken, Chief Marshal, assisted by his aids, formed the Pioneers in column according to the year of their arrival, which was designated by an appropriate banner, headed by the Northwest Brass Band, which discoursed excellent music, marched through the

Fair Grounds and halted at the speaker's stand in a beautiful grove of young oak, where, after music by the band, prayer by the Chaplain, the President made the following remarks:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE OREGON PIONEER ASSOCIATION:—In opening the exercises of your third annual re-union, you will permit me on this happy occasion in behalf of the Executive Board and Directors, to greet you with their kindest wishes, and ask that you may be pleased to accept their heart-felt thanks for the honored distinction, which, through your favor, we have been permitted to enjoy during the past year.

Friends and fellow citizens with us here assembled, I can assure you that never in my life have I been called upon to discharge a more pleasant duty, than at this present moment, which on their behalf and in the name of this honored Association, I bid you all thrice welcome to our feast.

Turn your eyes wheresoever you may, I verily believe no more deserving or nobler minded men or women are to be found, than they who stand to-day in the ranks of this self-sacrificing love-devoted remnant of Oregon's early Pioneers. Long may they be spared with their children and friends to enjoy the good things of this favored land, secured by their valor in long years of isolation, privation and toil, which they so faithfully endured.

The address* of Hon. M. P. Deady was replete with information and the large audience was highly pleased with that gentleman's effort.

At recess, the audience dispersed in groups to enjoy an old fashioned picnic dinner, strongly bringing to mind days of yore, and reviewing the vicissitudes of years gone by, recalling names of those who now are numbered with the great "silent majority," recounting their virtues and heaving a sigh to their memory.

At 2 o'clock, a musical entertainment was had in the pavilion under the direction of Prof. Thos. H. Crawford.

At 3 o'clock, Hon. J. W. Nesmith, Hon. Geo. P. Holman and others delivered instructive and entertaining addresses. Mr. Nesmith's address was about the immigration of 1843, of which

*See page 17, for Address.

he was one, and was a full and succinct history of the toils of that early day of overland immigration. Thus placing in history in a permanent manner a great deal of imformation that will prove of interest and value in after years.

At 5 o'clock, dancing commenced in the pavilion, in which many participated who had not danced a step for years, and they entered into the enjoyment of the hour with a zest that was gratifying to the floor managers, who spared no pains to make the occasion a success, and their labor was well rewarded.

At 7 o'clock, the Association met to transact the business that is necessary at these annual re-unions, which was as follows:

PAVILION, STATE FAIR GROUNDS,
SALEM, June 15, 1875.

Association was called to order by Hon. J. W. Grim, the President.

The first business to be transacted was the election of officers, which was held with the following result:

President, John W. Grim, by acclamation.

Vice President, E. N. Cooke, by acclamation.

Secretary, J. Henry Brown.

Treasurer, John M. Bacon.

Three Directors, Wm. J. Herren, Alex. P. Ankney and Bush W. Wilson.

The committee, consisting of Hon. E. N. Cooke, John M. Bacon and Geo. W. Dimick, who had been appointed to confer with the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon, submitted the following report and correspondence:

To the President of the Oregon Pioneer Association:—Your committee appointed to confer with the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon, with a view of uniting under one constitution the two organizations, beg leave to report

that they have communicated with the officers of said Pioneer and Historical Society, and they *decline* to unite the two organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

E. N. COOKE,
J. M. BACON,
Committee.

The committee submitted the following correspondence on the subject:

At the semi-annual meeting of the Oregon Pioneer and Historical Society, held on the 4th day of July, 1874, at Astoria, Wm. H. Gray, the Corresponding Secretary of said Society, presented a communication from the Oregon Pioneer Association, which reads as follows:

OREGON CITY, OREGON, }
JUNE 17, 1874. }

To the President, Officers and Members of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon:—GENTS. The undersigned were appointed a committee by the Oregon Pioneer Association, to communicate with your Society, and to ascertain upon what terms or arrangements, our Association could be united with your Society, believing the two organizations to be identically the same. We are of the opinion that good would result from such union.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

E. N. COOKE,
J. M. BACON,
G. W. DIMICK,
Committee.

On motion, the above letter was placed on file, and whereupon the following preamble and resolutions were adopted as a reply, viz:

WHEREAS, A proposition to unite with the Pioneer Association of Oregon, at present located in the Willamette Valley, with the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon, located at Astoria, the latter being organized and incorporated under the laws of Oregon, and being historical and perpetual in its existence and efforts. Therefore,

Resolved 1. That any material change in our organic existence would defeat the prime object of the Society.

Resolved 2. That to facilitate and embrace all Pioneers of this country, we cordially invite such as by the seventh Article of our Constitution, are entitled

to become subscribing and voting members, to send their names to the Recording or Corresponding Secretaries, that they may be duly entered on our Record Book of members.

Resolved 3. That all members of the Pioneer Association are invited to send their names to the Executive Board of this Society, that they may become honorary and corresponding members.

Resolved 4. That the semi-annual meetings of this Society shall be held at such time and place as shall be designated by its Executive Board; said Board taking into account the convenience and number of subscribing members, and of the location of such meetings.

On motion, the Secretary is hereby requested to furnish a certified copy of this preamble and resolutions to the Pioneer Association of Oregon.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby sign my name, and affix the official seal of said Society, this 15th day of July, 1874.

{SEAL.}

J. TAYLOR,
Secretary.

The following is Article 7, of the Constitution of the Oregon Pioneer and Historical Society, as alluded to in the second resolution above:

"ARTICLE VII. All persons may become members of this Society, who arrived upon the coast, or were born in the country, prior to January 1st, 1851, and are twenty-one years of age at the time of signing. All persons subscribing to this Constitution and By-Laws, shall give their full name, age, nativity, and date of arrival in the country as near as possible."

The committee on Pioneer Banner, consisting of Joseph Watt, A. P. Ankeny and John Minto, made a verbal report that they had not yet completed the banner, and asked that three more persons be added.

On motion the following gentlemen were added to said committee, C. A. Reed, M. P. Deady and J. W. Nesmith.

On motion, the Secretary was authorized to furnish suitable badges for the members, with the year of arrival of each member printed thereon.

W. J. Herren, chairman of committee to revise and amend the Constitution of the Association, submitted an amendment to Article VIII, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII. All immigrants, male or female, who reside within the bounds of the original Territory of Oregon, under joint occupancy of the country by the United States and Great Britain, and those who were born, or settled within said Territory prior to the first day of January, 1854, are eligible to be-become members of this Association.

Also that Article III be amended so as to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. The officers of this Association shall consist of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall form the Executive Board; and a Board of five Directors, including the President and Vice President, who shall be ex-officio members of the same. All officers of the Association shall hold their respective places for one year, or until their successors shall have been elected as hereinafter provided.

On motion, the above amendments were adopted.

On motion of Gen. Joel Palmer, the Treasurer was required to give bonds in the discretion of the Executive Board.

On motion, the thanks of the Association were extended to Hons. M. P. Deady and J. W. Nesmith.

On motion a vote of thanks was extended to the Oregon Agricultural Society, for the use of the grounds.

The Association voted their thanks to the Oregon and California Railroad Company, for kindness received at their hands for reduction to half fare, to persons who attended this re-union.

On motion, the Association adjourned.

After adjournment, most of the members went from the business hall to the ball room, where they were soon mingled with the happy throng, and enjoyed themselves only as Pioneers could until 11 o'clock, when the Portland train called for passengers. But those remaining, continued to enjoy themselves until the "we sma' hours of morn." Thus closed the third re-union, and all hope to live to enjoy many more such happy occasions.

SALEM, June 16, 1875.

The Board of Directors met in the Senate Chamber, Salem, Oregon, for the purpose of transacting business and receiving reports of committees.

Hon. E. N. Cooke in the chair.

On motion, the Secretary was authorized to correspond with the new Board of Directors and request their votes for W. H. Rees, Esq., who had been nominated for Corresponding Secretary.

The following is the financial statement as per reports of committees:

Amount received from all sources	$902 25
Bills paid out of same	856 18
Balance on hand	$ 46 07

On motion, Board adjourned.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SALEM, Jan. 20th, 1876.

The Board of Directors of the Oregon Pioneer Association met in the Secretary of State's office, at 2 o'clock P. M., and was called to order by Hon. J. W. Grim, President.

The following members of the Board and Asssociation were present:

Hon. John W. Grim, President.

Hon. E. N. Cooke, Vice President.

W. J. Herren, Esq.

J. Henry Brown, Secretary.

Williard H. Rees, Corresponding Secretary.

Hon. F. X. Mathieu, Ex-President.

Hons. S. F. Chadwick, Ralph C. Geer, and several other gentmen who took part in the proceedings.

Hon. S. F. Chadwick moved that the next annual re-union be held at the Oregon Agricultural Society Grounds which had been generously proffered, and as there had been no other place offered.

A letter from Hon. Elwood Evans of Washington Territory, was read, declining to deliver the next annual address, on account of previous engagements.

On motion, the Printing Committee of 1875 was reappointed, which consisted of Hons. E. N. Cooke, S. F. Chadwick, Willard H. Rees, Esq., and Hon. John Minto.

On motion, the Secretary was requested to make an exhibit of the financial resources of the Association.

The Secretary was added to the Committee on Printing.

On motion, adjourned until 7 o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

Board met pursuant to adjournment, Hon. J. W. Grim in the chair.

A telegram was received and read by the Secretary from Alex. P. Ankeny, resigning his position as a member of the Board of Directors.

On motion, the resignation was accepted.

On motion, Joseph Watt of Yamhill, was elected as a member of the Board of Directors in place of A. P. Ankeny, resigned.

The Secretary stated that there were 380 contributing members (males), and 91 females on the Association's roll. Total 471.

Mr. Rees nominated Rev. Wm. H. Roberts for Chaplain.

Mr. Cooke nominated Rev. J. H. Wilbur.

Rev. J. H. Wilbur was elected as Chaplain and Rev. Wm. H. Roberts, alternate.

Hon. Jesse Applegate was selected to deliver the Annual Address.

Judge R. P. Boise was selected as alternate.

Mr. Rees moved that a committee of five ladies be elected to select some lady to deliver or read an address at the next annual re-union, and to report to the Secretary by the 22d of February next, who they have selected.

Mrs. J. F. Miller, Mrs. S. A. Clarke, Mrs. Werner Breyman,

Mrs. I. N. Gilbert and Mrs. J. H. Moores, were appointed said committee.

Mr. Thos. C. Shaw was chosen Chief Marshal, with Col. T. R. Cornelius and Ralph C. Geer, aids.

On motion, the following Committee of Arrangements was appointed: John F. Miller, Joseph Holman, John W. Minto, Mrs. B. H. Bowman, Mrs. Mary Minto, Mrs. J. F. Miller, Mrs. S. A. Clarke, Mrs. I. N. Gilbert, Miss Clara Watt and Miss Maria Smith.

Moved and carried, that the Committee of Arrangements be instructed to attend to the invited guests.

Hon. John Minto was selected to deliver an address and call the roll of 1844.

Mrs. F. F. Victor, on motion, was invited to write a biography of the late Col. Joseph L. Meek, to be published in the proceedings of the Association.

Moved and carried that the Committee on Printing be instructed to have 2,000 copies of the proceedings and addresses printed as soon as possible.

Mr. E. M. Waite made a proposition to print the proceedings and addresses for $5.00 less than last year (1875), and if the number of pages are less, at a corresponding price, and if the number of pages be more, at a corresponding advance.

On motion, the proposition was accepted.

Moved, that the Committee of Arrangements be instructed to examine the banners and have them retouched if found necessary.

Moved and carried, that a warrant be drawn in favor of the Secretary for $15.00.

On motion, adjourned until the first Thursday in May.

J. HENRY BROWN,
Secretary.

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS.

BY HON. MATTHEW P. DEADY.

Hon. Matthew P. Deady, of Portland, was then introduced by the President, and in a full voice, with his usual forcible manner, delivered the following address:

OREGON PIONEERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Allow me to congratulate you upon being permitted to assemble here under the sheen of the Stars and Stripes, on this Twenty-Ninth Anniversary of the final acknowledgment of Great Britain of the American right to the Oregon territory. Having wisely resolved to meet together annually and celebrate your entry into the country, and brighten and perpetuate the memory of your early trials and sufferings while engaged in making the weary journey from the Missouri to the Wallamet, and transplanting, to this then far off shore, the customs, laws and institutions of Alfred and Washington, you could not have selected a more appropriate day for the occasion, than this. Just twenty-nine years ago, your only rival and competitor for the possession of this goodly land, by the treaty of Washington, in effect admitted, that the OREGON PIONEER, unaided by his Government, and despite the deeply interested opposition of the far-reaching Hudson Bay Company, backed by the power and diplomacy of the English Crown, although bringing with him across the trackless wilds of the continent little else than the Family, the School and the Church, had succeeded in occupying the country and rearing therein, upon these institutions, as foundation stones, the enduring edifice of an American State.

But we are not here to triumph over those who failed in the struggle for the prize or cast reproach upon their policy or conduct. The object of the Hudson Bay Company in occupying the country, was to secure the exclusive trade with the Indians and such British subjects as might suit its policy to allow therein, and it pursued this object as justly and considerately as could be expected. Its autocratic government and discipline was such as best suited its condition and pursuits. It did not seek to build towns, establish political communities, or even to cultivate the soil, except in a very limited measure. Its factors, traders

and clerks; though generally just and intelligent men, were a part of an unyielding system which compelled them to live for, and promote the special interests of the Company before those of the country.

But justice demands that I should name, at least, one notable exception to this general rule.

Dr. John McLoughlin was Chief Factor of the Company, west of the Rocky mountains, from 1823 to 1845, when he resigned the position and settled at Oregon City, where he died in 1857, full of years and honor. During this period he was the controlling power in the country, and did more than any one else to preserve order, peace and good will among the conflicting and sometimes lawless elements of the population. Although, as an officer of the Company, his duty and interest required that he should prefer it to the American immigrant or missionary, yet at the call of humanity, he always forgot all special interests, and was ever ready to help and succor the needy and unfortunate of whatever creed or clime.

Had he but turned his back upon the early missionary or settler and left them to shift for themselves, the occupation of the country by Americans would have been seriously retarded, and attended with much greater hardship and suffering than it was. As has been truly and eloquently said of him by another: "He was a great man upon whom God had stamped a grandeur of character which few men possess, and a nobility which the patent of no earthly sovereign can confer. His standard of commercial integrity would compare with that of the best of men. As a Christian, he was a devout Roman Catholic, yet nevertheless Catholic in the largest sense of that word."

For at least a quarter of a century McLoughlin was a grand and potent figure in the affairs of the Pacific slope. Compared with his surroundings and measured by his opportunities, in majesty of appearance and nobility of soul, he was—

> "As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
> Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm,
> Though round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
> Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

But he has long since gone to his rest. Peace to his ashes! Yet the good deeds done in the body are a lasting monument to his memory, and shall in due time cause his name to be written in letters of gold in Oregon history. As I pass along where he fell out of the ranks of life, I reverently turn aside and drop this stone upon his neglected CAIRN, and hope every OREGON PIONEER will say, Amen.

Page upon page has been written to prove that Oregon belonged to the United States by right of discovery, and by virtue of the French cession of the territory of Louisiana of April 30, 1803, and the treaty of limits with Spain, of February 22, 1829, by which the latter relinquished her rights to the country north and east of a line therein described and agreed upon.

But these indefinite grounds of title, although as good as any set up against them, were the mere makeweights of diplomatic controversy and finesse, and had but little, if any effect, upon the final result. The accidental discovery, in 1792, of the mouth of the Oregon by a private adventurer in the ship *Columbia*, who never attempted to make any use of the fact or exploration of the country, was a very insignificant and insufficient circumstance upon which, after a lapse of fifty years, to base a claim to a country crossed by seven degrees of latitude and nearly as many as many more of longitude. The fact of the entry and exploration of the river, for the distance of one hundred miles from its mouth, at a latter period of the same year, by the British navigator, Vancouver, is of the same general character. In the absence of any other claim to the country, either circumstance might be relied upon by the Governments of the respective discoverers, as giving them some right to the possession of the territory drained by the river. But upon these facts alone, as between Great Britain and the United States, I think the better right was with the former; for, as I have said, Gray was only a private citizen engaged in a mere mercantile adventure, and made no exploration of the river above its mouth, while Vancouver was a commissioned officer of the British Government engaged in exploring the coast, who entered the river and explored it as far east as the present town of Vancouver. But as against a title derived from the actual occupation of the soil by any considerable number of the people of either nation, a claim based upon such inconclusive circumstances, ought not to weigh a feather.

The only direct result of Gray's discovery, has been the change of the name of the River of the West from the OREGON to the COLUMBIA, in compliment to his ship. For many reasons the change is to be regretted, but I suppose it is now beyond recall. Yet the sonorous original is embalmed in the beautiful lines of Bryant, and will not be forgotten while Thanatopsis remains to edify and delight the world:

> "Take the wings
> Of morning—and the Barcan desert pierce,
> Or lose thyself in the continuous woods,
> Where rolls the OREGON, and hears no sound,
> Save his own dashings—yet—the dead are there."

From the beginning, the right to the country was to depend upon the successful occupation of it. The race for possession was between Great Britain and

the United States—the former represented by its Fur Companies with their hierarchy of educated and trained officers and clerks, and motley following of Canadians, half breeds and Indians—the latter by the Eastern trader and Missionary and particularly the Western woodsman and farmer. Primarily, the English sought to occupy the country for the purpose of carrying on the fur trade with the Indians. It was to be keept from the plough and the sickle and preserved as a breeding ground for fur bearing animals except so far as the limited necessities or convenience of the Company might otherwise require. Many of the "gentlemen" of the Company regarded the country as a mere outpost, in which they were engaged in a temporary service.

On the other hand, the American settler was always animated—often it may have been unconsciously—with the heroic thought that he was permanently engaged in reclaiming the wilderness—building a home—founding an American State and extending the area of liberty. He had visions, however dimly seen, that he was here to do for this country what his ancestors had done for savage England centuries before—to plant a community which in due time should grow and ripen into one of the great sisterhood of Anglo-American States, wherein the language of the Bible, Shakspeare and Milton should be spoken by millions then unborn, and the law of Magna Charta and Westminster Hall be the bulwark of liberty and the buttress of order for generations to come.

Under these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at, that this British army of occupation failed to take deep root in the soil and hold the country as against the OREGON PIONEER. But at one time, apparently, the odds were largely in its favor. Only forty-five years ago, a casual observer might have concluded that the arch of the American Union would never span this continent. So late as that period, the territory did not contain an American citizen. Practically, it was under the control and in the occupation of the subjects of Great Britain and their Indian allies and dependents. But to-day not a vestige of the once undisputed dominion of the great British corporation remains to be seen, while the Stars and Stripes float free from every battlement and mast-head from the mountains to the sea.

Before proceeding to speak of the great emigrations from the West to Oregon, between the years 1840 and 1846, which by their numbers and character finally determined the question of occupancy, let us glance at the progress of discovery and settlement up to that period.

Between 1804 and 1806, the expedition of Lewis and Clarke traversed the continent from the mouth of the Missouri to that of the Columbia, and returned to the place of starting. It wintered in the country on the south side of the river, near its mouth. This expedition was authorized and supported by the National Government, and is more properly entitled to the credit of *discovering*

the river than either Gray or Vancouver. Altogether, it did much to attract the attention of the people of the United States to the country, and impress them with the feasibility of manking the journey to the Pacific shore by land.

The entrance of the *Tonquin* into the Columbia in, 1811, and the establishment of a trading post at the mouth of the river by Astor's Fur Company, together with the overland journeys of Hunt, Stuart, Franchere, and others of the Pacific and Northwest companies, prior to the year 1815, also served to familiarize the inhabitants of the United States with the general character of the country and its proximity and relation to the acknowledged American territory. The war with Great Britain having caused the failure of Astor's project to occupy the country with a psuedo American fur company, the property and trade of the Pacific Fur Company fell into the hands of the Northwest Company—a British-Canadian organization—some of whose members constituted the principal persons in Astor's company. Thereupon Astoria became Fort George, and the Northwest Company was the dominant power in the country until 1823, when it was merged into the Hudson Bay Company; thenceforth the latter ruled in Oregon, until it was superceded by the government of the PIONEERS. With the advent of the Hudson Bay Company, the seat of empire was removed from Fort George to Vancouver, which latter place became the western emporium of this great colonial corporation. There for full twenty years, its Chief Factor, McLoughlin, held baronial sway, governing the country with a strong hand but a just judgment, and dispensing a primitive but generous hospitality to the weary traveller or chance tourist of whatever race or land. The scream of the American eagle was unheard in the country while the British lion roamed without a rival from Fort Hall to Fort George and from Colville to Umpqua.

And now diplomacy entered the arena and conceded that, notwithstanding the partial discoveries of Heceta, Mears, Gray, Vancouver, Lewis and Clarke, the country was open to be occupied by the people of either nation.

On October 20, 1818, it was agreed by the third article of the treaty of London, "that any country that may be claimed by either" Great Britain or the United States "on the Northwest coast of America, westward of the Stony mountains * * * should be free and open for the term of ten years to the vessels, citizens and subjects of the two powers." By this act the two high contracting parties virtually admitted to the world, that neither of them had any perfect or acknowledged right to any country westward of the Stony mountains, or that at most, they had but a *claim* of right to some undefined part of that comparatively unknown region. This convention, apparently acting upon the admission that neither party had any definite right to the country, and that like any other unsettled and unowned portion of the globe, it was open to

occupation by the first comer, expressly recognized the right of the people of both nations to occupy it, for the time being, at pleasure.

Thus was sanctioned that occupation of the country by Great Britain, which was practically commenced some years before, with the transfer of the property and business of the Pacific Fur Company to the Northwest. This convenient condition of things was continued indefinitely by the treaty of London, of August 16, 1827, with liberty to either party "to annul and abrogate" it at any time after October 20, 1828, by giving notice of such purpose.

And now commenced a movement that, if it had been successful, would have hastened the occupation of the country and the acknowledgment of the American title to it by at least ten years. As early as the year 1817, Hall J. Kelley, of Boston, began to advocate the immediate occupation of the Oregon territory by American settlers. He became an enthusiast upon the subject, and spent his time and some fortune in promoting a scheme for emigration to the country. As early as 1829 he procured the incorporation, by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, of "The American Society for the settlement of the Oregon territory."

From a memorial presented by the society to Congress, in 1831, it appears that it was "engaged in the work of opening to a civilized and virtuous population that part of Western America called Oregon." The memorialists state that "They are convinced that if the country should be settled under the auspices of the United States of America, from such of her worthy sons who have drunk the spirit of those civil and religious institutions which constitute the living fountain and the very perennial source of her national prosperity, great benefits must result to mankind. They believe that there the skillful and persevering hand of industry might be employed with unparalleled advantage; that there science and the arts, the invaluable privilege of a free and liberal government, and the refinement and ordinances of Christianity, diffusing each its blessing, would harmoniously unite in meliorating the moral condition of the Indians, in promoting the comfort and happiness of the settlers, and in augmenting the wealth and power of the Republic."

After stating "that the country in question is the most valuable of all the unoccupied portions of the earth," and designed by Providence "to be the residence of a people whose singular advantages will give them unexampled power and prosperity," the memorial adds "That these things * * * * have settled in the policy of the British nation the determined purpose of possessing and enjoying the country as their own, and have induced their Parliament to confer on the Hudson Bay Company chartered privileges for occupying with

their settlements the fertile banks of the Columbia. * * * * * Already have they flourishing towns, strong fortifications and cultivated farms. * * * Their largest town is Vancouver, which is situated on a beautiful plain, in the region of tide water, on the northern bank of the Columbia. * * * Everything, either in the organization of the government, or in the busy and various operations of the settlements of this place, at Wallawalla, at Fort Colville and at De Fuca, indicate the intention of the English to colonize the country. Now, therefore, your memorialists, in behalf of a large number of the citizens of the United States, would respectfully ask Congress to aid them in carrying into operation the great purposes of their institution—to grant them troops, artillery, military arms and munitions of war for the security of the contemplated settlement—to incorporate their society with power to extinguish the Indian title to such tracts and extent of territory, at the mouth of the Columbia and the junction of the Multnomah with the Columbia, as may be adequate to the laudable objects and pursuits of the settlers; and with such other powers, rights and immunities as may be at least, equal and concurrent to those given by Parliament to the Hudson Bay Company; and such as are not repugnant to the stipulations of the Convention, made between Great Britain and the United States, wherein it was agreed that any country on the Northwest coast of America, to the westward of the Rocky mountains should be free and open to the citizens and subjects of the two powers, for a term of years; and to grant them such other rights and privileges as may contribute to the means of establishing a respectable and prosperous community."

Mr. Kelley was the general agent of the Society. In 1831 he published a pamphlet, entitled "A general circular to all persons of good character, who wish to emigrate to the Oregon Territory," which set forth the general objects of the Society. The opening paragraph discloses the fact that the subsequent cry of "Fifty-Four-Forty-or-Fight" had not then been invented nor the claim upon which it was based known or understood. It commences—"Oregon Settlement. To be commenced in the spring of 1832 on the delightful and fertile banks of the Columbia river. It has been for many years in serious contemplation to settle with a free and enlightened but redundant population from the American Republic that portion of her territory, called Oregon, bounding on the Pacific ocean and lying between the forty-second and *forty-ninth* parallels of N. latitude."

As appears, the banks of the Columbia were then supposed to be the valuable portion of the country, while the great Wallamet valley where "the clouds drop fatness" and seed-time and harvest never fail, was scarcely known or mentioned.

The names of 37 agents of the Society are given in the pamphlet, from any of

whom, persons desirous of becoming emigrants to Oregon, under its auspices might obtain the proper certificate for that purpose. The agents were scattered over the Union. Only two of them—Nathaniel Wyeth, of Cambridge, Mass., and Mr. Kelley himself—ever visited the scene of the proposed colony.

The expedition was to start from St. Louis in March, 1832, with a good supply of waggons and stock. Each emigrant was to receive a town and farm lot at the junction of the Columbia and Multnomah rivers, and at the mouth of the former, where seaports and river towns were already laid off—on paper.

But this scheme bore no immediate fruit. Congress was busy with some political abstraction and could not spare the time or stoop to give attention to a plan for founding an empire on the Columbia; and so the American occupation of the disputed territory was delayed for at least another decade. Nevertheless, the agitation of the project brought the country favorably before the public, and here and there set certain special forces and interests in motion, which in due time materially aided the consummation, Hall J. Kelley so devoutly wished, and so long labored for.

To him, more than any other one person, in my judgment, may be justly attributed the subsequent occupation of the country by emigrants from the United States—and Oregon should in some way worthy of the subject and herself yet acknowledge and commemorate that fact.

In the year 1832, Nathaniel Wyeth, crossed the plains to Oregon, and returning by the same route to Boston in 1833, came back in 1834 and established himself as an independent trader in the country; having sent his goods around the Horn the same year in the *May Dacre*. He established his headquarters on Wappatoo island, near the mouth of the Wallamet. A continuation of ill-luck, including a dearth of salmon in the Columbia river for two successive years, induced him, after an experiment of three years, to abandon the enterprise. He disposed of his property to the Hudson Bay Company, who placed a Frenchman by the name of Sauve on the island, as a dairyman. In after years, when the western emigrants found their way to this country, they called it from this fact, Sauve's island—and thus the original name, by which it was known and settled by Wyeth, was lost.

Yet this attempt of Wyeth's, which itself was largely a consequence of Kelley's scheme, was not without results conductive to American occupation. Divers persons employed in the enterprise remained in the country and were the beginning of the independent American settlers in the country.

Among them, were the well known names of O'Neil, Hubbard and Smith.

Afterwards, these men exerted a positive influence in favor of American interests and the formation of the Provisional government. The last named—the Hon. Solomon Smith—is still living and at present a member of the Senate from Clatsop county. He came here from New Hampshire in 1834, and has been a useful and exemplary citizen of the country ever since. I believe he is the oldest Pioneer now living.

Besides these, there came with Wyeth, Nuttall the naturalist, and Townsend the ornithologist, whose accounts of their explorations and observations did much to attract the attention of the scientific and curious to the country.

To this expedition we also owe in great part the presence of the first Methodist missionaries in the country—the Lees, Shepard and Edwards, who crossed the plains with Wyeth in 1834; their goods being shipped by him with his own in the *May Dacre*. This was the beginning of the Methodist mission in Oregon.

The other members of the mission—among who were Willson, Beers, Leslie, Waller, Hines, Judson, Parrish, Abernethy, Campbell and Babcock—came to the country between this year and 1840—many of them in the latter year. They were mostly from the Eastern States. Their professed object in coming to the country was a religious one—to convert the Indian to the Christian religion—rather than to occupy the country and establish therein an American community and State. They came simply as missionaries to the Indians, and as such were made welcome by the Company. Incidentally, of course, they expected to occupy mission stations, and engage in such secular labor as might be necessary and convenient for the maintenance of their work among the Indians. When they landed in the country they did not burn their ships.

It was expected that their base of operations would be in the east; and after a few years spent in ministering to the heathen, the missionary himself might return to his friends and home in the land from whence he came. Their Board of Missions had very little idea of the character and value of the country or of the important and far reaching results which were to issue from their futile mission to the Indians of Oregon. So late, even, as 1844, their organ, the New York *Christian Advocate*, published an article on Oregon which was quoted in Congress during the debate on the resolution to terminate the treaty of joint occupation, to show that the country was not worth quarreling about. The article contained the following paragraph: "We have some opportunity from our position, to found a correct estimate of the soil, climate, productions and facilities of the country from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific ocean, as we have had a large mission there for several years, distributed in small parties over the

territory; and from all that we have learned we should prefer migrating to Botany bay. With the exception of the lands of the Wallamet, and strips along a few of the smaller water courses, the whole country is among the most irreclaimable, barren wastes of which we have read, except the desert of Sahara."

But now, after the lapse of years, we can readily see how these simple men were really the unconscious instruments in the hands of HIM who "hath made the round world" and ruleth the destiny of all nations that dwell thereon. Under HIS divine guidance, they "builded better than they knew."

Although their mission to the Indians was substantially a failure, they were of great benefit to the country. They wisely settled in the heart of the great Wallamet valley, and formed there a nucleus and rallying point for the future American settlement, and thereby attracted the after coming immigration to this Goshen of the Pacific. From the first, the lay element and secular spirit was sufficiently strong among them, to cause them to take root in the country and gradually become a permanent colony, rather than remain mere sojourners among the Indians. Before long they began to build and plant as men who regarded the country as their future home. Comparatively, they prospered in this world's goods; and when the immigration came flowing into the country from the west, they found at the "Wallamet Mission," practically an American settlement, whose influence and example were favorable to order, industry, sobriety and economy, and contributed materially to the formation of a moral, industrious and law abiding community out of these successive waves of unstratified population.

True, their Indian school had no permanent effect upon the aboriginies of the vicinage.

> "His soul *their* science never taught to stray,
> Far as the solar walk or milky way."

But it was of great advantage as a seat of learning, however primitive, and a means of education, to the white youth of the country. "As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land," it attracted to its vicinity, those who were desirous of protecting themselves as far as possible, from the withering atmosphere of an ignorant and uncultivated community. Around it, and largely on account of it, grew up the town of Salem—now the wide-spreading capital of the State. Long since, it discarded the rustic and uncertain appellation of "Institute," and now glories in the honor of being a well-endowed and prosperous university, which many of the foremost young men of this generation are proud to hail as their Alma Mater.

In 1834, Hall J. Kelley reached the country, via Mexico and California. On account of ill-health he returned to the east in the following spring, and thus

ended his early aspiration to found "a virtuous and civilized" community in Oregon. Yet even this transient visit of his was not without notable results in favor of American occupation. Somewhere in lower California Kelley fell in with Ewing Young, formerly of Missouri, whom he indueed, with some others, to come to the country with him. Young soon settled in the Wallamet valley as a farmer and stock-raiser. He and a few others, of whom he seems to have been somewhat a leader, early aspired to an independent existence as free American settlers—not recognizing any superiority of right or position in either the Company or the Mission. In January, 1837, Young, in company with Edwards, a layman of the Mission, and a few others, went to California by sea, to purchase cattle for themselves and others in the Wallamet settlement. The party returned by land in the spring of the same year with 600 Spanish cattle. This was a very important event in the history of the colony—almost as much so as the rape of the Sabine women in the founding of Rome. For without the cheap labor of the patient ox and the simple food of the faithful cow, the plough must have rusted in the furrow and the young pioneers gone hungry to bed. Thereafter the cattle monopoly of the Company was at an end, and the settlers soon had a sufficient supply of "long horns" for food and labor.

I suppose that the "blue blood" of these Castilian cattle has long since become so diluted with that of the ignoble herds driven hither from the West in after times, that to-day it is scarcely perceptable in the ordinary bovines of the country. Indeed, the improved short-horns and other wonderful adipose products of modern cow-culture, are rapidly taking the place of all others. But the time was, when the broad, unbroken prairies of the Wallamet were dotted over with droves of the fleet-footed descendants of these seed-cattle of Oregon.

Many of you remember their striking appearance—a half wild look and motion; a light, long, round body; clean, bony limbs, and a handsome head crowned with a pair of long, tapering, curved horns. When tame or at rest, they were as mild-looking as gazelles, but a herd of them alarmed or enraged was as "terrible as an army with banners."

In February, 1841, Young died comparatively wealthy in cattle and horses, without any known heirs. The necessity of providing for some disposition of his property forced upon the settlers the question of organization, which was the beginning of the agitation that resulted in the establishment of a Provisional government. The result was, that the estate was appropriated to the building of a jail at Oregon City—probably the first "prison house" west of the Rocky mountains. More than twenty years afterwards the *State* of Oregon refunded the value of the property taken, to his son, Joaquin Young, of New Mexico.

In 1837 the formation of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company was commenced by some of the principal persons of the Hudson Bay Company, for the purpose of bringing into the country a British agricultural population, to aid by their presence and numbers in the approaching contest for the occupation of the soil. Before 1840 the company was completely organized, and in 1841 a party of settlers was brought from Red river, Rupert's Land, and settled at Cowlitz and Nisqually, on the north side of the Columbia. In 1843, Dr Tolmie was placed in charge at Nisqually, the principal point of operations. But the settlement never throve and the scheme failed signally. In many respects the location was not a favorable one for agricultural pursuits: and some of the settlers, who were attracted to the Wallamet valley on account of its superior advantages, left the company and eventually cast their weight on the American side of the question.

The missionaries sent across the Rocky mountains by the American Board, remained among the Indians east of the Cascade mountains, and never became and were not considered a part of the American settlement in Oregon. But in exploring the pathway to their mission grounds, they did much towards finding and marking the route for the future immigration to the country and facilitating their journey to it.

In 1836, Whitman, Spaulding and Gray, with the wives of the first two, were sent by this Board as missionaries to the Nez Perce Indians. They established missions at Wailaptu, near the Wallawalla and at Lapwai on the Clearwater. In the fall of 1842, Whitman went east and returned to his mission in 1843, travelling a part of the way with the great immigration of that year, and doing much to encourage them to take their waggons beyond Fort Hall, the point where he left them. Gray went home in 1837 and returned in the following year with Mrs. Gray. There came with him Walker and Eells and their wives, as additions to the mission. In 1842, Gray abandoned the mission and came down into the Wallamet valley, where he soon became a settler and an active supporter of American interests and a determined promoter of the organization of the Provisional government. He is still living and within a few years has published an interesting chronicle of those early times. In the spring of 1839, Walker and Eells and their wives established a mission on the Spokan, in the vicinity of Fort Colville, where they labored until 1848, when they withdrew from the mission and removed to the Wallamet valley. In 1849, Mr. and Mrs. Walker settled at Forest Grove, where they still live respected by all who know them. Of the American women now living, Mrs. Gray, Walker and Eells, are the first that crosed the plains—while the only ones who proceeded

them were Mrs. Whitman and Spalding—both long since numbered with "the dead who die in the Lord."

In 1838, the Rev. F. N. Blanchett and Modeste De Meers were sent from Canada across the country to Vancouver, by the Bishop of Quebec, as missionaries to the Canadian French who, after leaving the service of the Hudson Bay Company, had settled in the Wallamet valley and on the Cowlitz. De Meers was stationed at the Cowlitz and is now a Bishop in British Columbia. Blanchett went into the Wallamet valley and founded there the mission of St. Paul, where a church and school have ever since been maintained. This settlement was commenced about 1829, and when Blanchett arrived there, it contained about twenty-five families—Frenchmen with Indian wives—from which circumstance the region came to be called the "French Prairie." Among them were the well known names of Luci, Gervais and Laframbeaux.

These priests were not *settlers* in the country, but *ministers* to the French and Indians. The ultimate possession of the country was a matter in which they ostensibly took no interest. They were, however, subjects of Great Britain and their influence and teaching among their people were naturally in favor of the authority and interest of the Hudson Bay Company. They discouraged the early attempts at the formation of a settlers government in the country, but submitted to it when established.

Blanchett is still living—a genial, kind old gentleman—upon whom near 40 years of missionary journeyings and labors by land and sea in both hemispheres have made but little outward impression. In some sense he has had his reward. From a simple priest he has become an Archbishop, and as such often visits the place where he first erected the Standard of the Cross in Oregon—"St. Paul du Wallamette."

In 1839, Griffin and Munger and their wives came to the country as independent missionaries, and settled on the west side of the Wallamet river, in the Tualitin plains. Practically they were American settlers and took root in the country at once. In the same year, the Americans, Sydney Smith, Shortess and Geiger, settled in the country. Shortess was for some time a noted man in the affairs of the colony. Smith is still living in Yamhill county where he cast his independent lot, long, long ago.

In 1840, Harvey Clarke, an independent Congregational missionary, crossed the plains to the Whitman mission, and the following year came into the valley with some associates and settled in Tualitin plains. Among these were Alvin T. Smith and Littlejohn. Smith is still living in the vicinity, a well to do farmer and good citizen. This settlement on the Tualitin plains was an important addition to the active, intelligent American sentiment in the country. In his day,

Mr. Clarke was a leading spirit in it and a useful and exemplary man. It has been said of him—"The country is blessed by his having lived in it." The votive tablet or mural monument of pantheon, cathedral or abbey contains no greater eulogy of the dead than this. He was the principal founder and promoter of the school at Forest Grove—since grown into the Pacific University, and one of the oldest and best seats of learning on the coast.

In 1840 a few mountain men—independent American trappers from the Rocky mountains—among whom were Newell and Meek, abandoned their nomadic lives and settled in the Wallamet valley. They all took part in the subsequent organization of the Provisional government, and helped to Americanize the country. In the winter of 1847-8, during the Cayuse war, Meek crossed the plains as a delegate from the Provisional government to the government at Washington, and was afterwards the first United States Marshal in Oregon.

In the same year there came from the States, as independent settlers, Robert Moore, Amos Cook, Francis Fletcher and Joseph Holman. Moore settled at the Wallamet Falls, on the west bank of the river, and called his place "Robin's Nest," where he lived until his decease, at a good old age, in 1857. Here, in 1841, Wilkes found him claiming to hold a section of land under a purchase from an Indian chief—Old Slacomb, I suppose—and sneered at him, because, with the true instinct of a native Pennsylvanian, he saw iron in the vicinity and expected before long to be engaged in smelting it. But time, which tries all things, has verified "Old Mr. Moore's" unlearned opinion and confuted the Admiral's scientific scepticism.

McLoughlin claimed the opposite bank of the river. In the course of this strife for preoccupation, here met these two characteristic representatives of the Pioneer of the Old and the New World, to claim the respective shores of this great water power and commanding point in the future navigation of the river and business of the country. For years they looked out upon one another across the foaming flood as the vanguards or leaders of the opposing armies of occupation. They died within a few days of each other, and their bodies lie buried within the sound of the cataract, which separated them in life.

Cook and Fletcher settled on the bank of the beautiful Yamhill, near the Falls, and soon became the leading farmers in the country. Mr. Cook is still living within a short distance of the spot where he first settled. Few men have done more with their own hands to improve the country than he.

Holman settled at the Methodist mission, and soon married a member of it—Miss Almira Phelps. For a short time he and his wife had charge of the Indian school, after which he was engaged in farming and subsequently went into bu-

siness and kept a store at Salem. He is still living and enjoying in a large degree the reward of a life of industry and integrity.

At the close of this year the population of the country, exclusive of the Company and Indians, was about 200. Of these, one-sixth were Canadians. Nine-tenths of them were located to the west of the Cascade mountains, and almost all of them in the Wallamet valley. But the power and prestige resulting from wealth, organization and priority of settlement were still on the side of those who represented Great Britain. It was a common opinion among all classes that in the final settlement of boundaries between the two countries, the territory north of the Columbia might be conceded to Great Britain; and the principal settlements and stations of the British and Americans were located with reference to this possibility.

So stood the matter thirty-five years after the American exploration of the Columbia river by Lewis and Clarke. A casual observer might have concluded that the country was doomed to remain a mere trapping and trading ground for the Company for generations to come.

But a new force was now about to appear on the scene and settle the long protracted controversy in favor of the United States. It was the Oregon Argonauts, moving across the continent in dusty columns, with their wives and children, flocks and herds, in search of the Golden Fleece that was to be found in the groves and prairies of the coveted lands of the Wallamet.

The actual occupation of Oregon for the purpose of claiming and holding the country as against Great Britain, and forming therein an American State, did not commence until after 1840. Very naturally the movement began in the West, and had its greatest strength in Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. The panic of 1837 and the subsequent stagnation of business had produced a feeling of dispondency in the West. Especially, in the States named, was there no market for stock or produce, and money had almost ceased to be a circulating medium. Taxes could scarcely be paid, and many persons feared that the land must ultimately be sold to pay the public debts and expenses. This state of things helped very much to turn the public attention to Oregon, as a sure place of refuge from panics, bank failures, high taxes, and all the other ills, real or imaginary, under which the extreme Western States were then groaning, as they never have since.

Notwithstanding the apparent advantages on the side of those who represented Great Britain in the race for possession, there were two facts or circumstances in the case which were operating with ever increasing force in favor of American occupation, and which, in the end gave the victory to the American settler.

These were: (1.) The contiguity of the country to the admitted territory of the United States; and, (2.) The strong inclination and well tried capacity of the western American for emigration by land, and his long experience in self-government.

The country south of the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude was properly regarded as a mere prolongation of the acknowledged territory of the United States to its natural geographical boundary—the Pacific ocean—while that on the north of such line, for a like reason more properly belonged to Great Britain. Between conflicting claimants to unoccupied country, its contiguity to the principal possessions of either party is always a material circumstance in the controversy. As between independent nations, convenience and utility being the ultimate standard of right, the fact of greater contiguity has much force in such a controversy and may itself be sufficient to give the better right.

The possession of Calais by the English, though won by force of arms and sanctioned by treaties and lapse of time, was always a political wrong. It violated the integrity and imperiled the security of the French territory, and was a constant cause of trouble and anxiety to both nations. It was a standing menace and continuous injury to France. On the other hand, in the case of Ireland, the argument of convenience and utility, based upon its contiguity to Great Britain, has always prevailed and justified the latter, as against France or any other continental power in taking the Gem of the Sea and wearing it among the jewels of her crown. The general convenience and utility being most promoted by Oregon's becoming a part of the American union, rather than remaining a mere Hudson Bay possession or a distant appanage of the British crown, the better right of occupation was with the American settler. But he also had the power to enforce that right. The great capacity and experience which the Western trader, farmer and woodman had acquired for moving across wild and uninhabited regions, and occupying new countries, and supporting and governing themselves while there, without government aid or direction, constituted their power to take and occupy Oregon. In such matters, in the long run, might makes right. In the struggle for the possession of an unoccupied country, the weak and ignorant must give place to the strong and experienced. Under the circumstances, emigration from Great Britain was out of the question. The *people* of that country knew nothing of Oregon, and took but little, if any, interest in its settlement or acquisition. Besides, the Company did not desire a general immigration to the country, even of British subjects, for that would interfere with the special use for which they sought to occupy the country, quite as much as an American one. The policy of the Company was to hold the country as a private possession, within which, only such persons should be allowed to settle

as would submit to their control—become in some way their vassals or tenants.

In the half century following the close of the American revolution, the wave of population had moved nine hundred miles westward from the Alleghanies, occupying and improving the country over which it passed. But the public interest in Oregon was soon to become so thoroughly aroused, that this slow rate of extending the Western frontier was to be abandoned, and the wide space between the Missouri and the Wallamet, then regarded as comparatively worthless, crossed at a bound.

In 1836 and 1837, Irving's *Astoria* and *Bonneville* were given to the world. The perusal of these sprightly and picturesque pages was well calculated to fill the minds of the romantic and adventurous with an interest in the country and a desire to make that marvelous journey across the plains.

The visit of Wilkes in 1841, with the exploring squadron, gave the impression that the national government was intending to take measures to encourage the occupation of the country by its citizens. His account of the country, which was largely circulated, confirmed the most favorable reports of the fertility of the soil and the salubrity of the climate.

Early in the year 1842, a special impetus was given to immigration by the introduction in the Senate of Dr. Linn's bill, offering a liberal donation of land to settlers in Oregon. The promise thereby implied was afterwards honorably redeemed by Congress, in the passage of the well-earned Donation act. As a result of this proposition and the other circumstances to which I have adverted, about 100 immigrants crossed the plains this year to Oregon—having left their waggons at Fort Hall. This was the first considerable body of actual settlers that had yet come to the country. Among them were the well-known names of Lovejoy, Hastings, Crawford, Robb, Matthieu, Coombs, Shadden, Moss and Morrison, all of whom are still living and in the front rank of the OREGON PIONEERS. Hastings and Coombs reside in California, the former having been a judge of the Supreme Court of that State. Lovejoy was a lawyer from Boston,—the first lawyer in the colony—and was prominent in its affairs and councils for the next twenty years. Crawford taught in the Methodist Mission Indian school for a time, and has since held various positions of honor and trust under the National and State governments. The tide of immigration to Oregon had now commenced to flood—never to slacken or ebb until it had covered the country with permanent settlers, and rendered the American occupation of it an accomplished fact.

This year also witnessed the first successful attempt at independent trade in Oregon. In July, Capt. John H. Couch brought the ship *Chenamus* into the Wallamet river with a cargo of goods from Boston, which he placed on sale at

Wallamet Falls. Prior to this event, the Company and Mission had a monopoly of the mercantile business in Oregon. Couch was so well pleased with the country that he gave up the sea and settled in it. Couch's addition to the city of Portland, is built upon the land claim taken up by him in 1845. A few years ago he was carried across the Wallamet to the Necropolis, where he lies at anchor awaiting the general resurrection of the dead. By the early pioneers he will always be remembered with feelings of kindness and respect.

On November 8th of this year a public meeting was held at Alton, Illinois, by which resolutions were passed urging the importance of the speedy occupation of Oregon. The resolutions were reported and the meeting addressed by Gen. Semple, of that State, who appears to have taken an early interest in the subject. This was followed by a large meeting at the capital of the same State on February 5th, 1843, at which resolutions were passed to the same effect. Many of the distinguished men of Illinois were present at, and participated in this meeting. Col. Baker, who lived to become a United States Senator from Oregon and one other person, opposed the passage of the resolutions. How true it is that "Man proposes but God disposes." In the following July "a convention of delegates from the States and territories of the west and south-west," was held at Cincinnati, which passed resolutions asserting the right of the United States to the country as far north as "Fifty-four Forty," and urging Congress to take measures to promote the speedy settlement of it.

Whilst these causes were at work east of the Missouri to push on the column of immigration to Oregon, the settlers were earnestly preparing for them, by laying the foundations of order and justice in the colony.

In the early part of 1843 "the citizens of the colony," as they styled themselves, commenced to hold meetings to devise ways and means to protect their stock from the wolves and other beasts of prey. These meetings were the germ of the provisional government. The first one was held on February 2d, at "the Oregon Institute." It appointed a committee of six to report business to an adjourned meeting on the first Monday in March, at the house of Joseph Gervais. This meeting after providing for the "destruction of all wolves, panthers and bears," took a step forward, and initiated the movement for the establishment of a civil government, by appointing a committee of twelve persons, namely, Babcock, White, O'Neil, Shortess, Newell, Lucie, Gervais, Hubbard, McKoy, Gray, Smith and Gay, to devise "measures for the civil and military protection of the colony." This committee agreed upon a plan of government, and called a general meeting of the citizens at Champoeg on May 2, to consider their report. At this meeting the report of the committee, after much canvassing, was adopted by a vote of 52 yeas to 50 nays—the yeas and nays rising and separating, while

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Meek led off in a loud voice for the adoption of the report. Before adjourning, the meeting set the new government on its legs, by electing a supreme judge and sundry subordinate officers, and also a legislative committee of nine persons, namely, Moore, Hill, Shortess, Beers, Gray, Hubbard, O'Neil, Newell and Dougherty, at the princely compensation of $1.25 per day, to prepare and report the necessary laws for the new government, to be submitted to a vote of the people at the same place, on the 5th of July. The report of the legislative committee was by this COLONIAL COMITIA adopted; and thus begun, while yet Oregon was claimed and partially occupied by British subjects, a government, which, however feeble or limited, was in form and spirit purely American.

How appropriate it was, under the circumstances, that these isolated and self-reliant people should inscribe upon their banner, the old motto of Thanet—ALIS VOLAT PROPRIIS. May their descendants never forget its significance or prove themselves unworthy of it!

The immigration of that year numbered about 900 men, women and children. They brought their waggons to Wallawalla and The Dalles, where they were abandoned for the time being. Their cattle, some 1,300 in number, were driven into the valley upon a trail around the base of Mount Hood. The main body of the immigrants were brought down the Columbia river in the Company's boats, for which they were indebted to the kindness and consideration of Dr. McLoughlin. The immigration of 1844 amounted in round numbers to 800, so that by the close of this year, there were near 2,000 American citizens in the country. The immigration of 1845 was still larger than that of either of the two preceding years; containing near 3,000 persons and 2,500 head of cattle. It was largely from Iowa and was the means of introducing the statutes of that State into the country, from which time until 1854, Iowa law was substantially the law of Oregon.

The great majority of the American population were plain, substantial people. Many of them were persons of great force of character and much natural ability, while some few were men of education and experience in public affairs.

Those of 1843 stood somewhat pre-eminent among the early settlers. This immigration was much larger than any which preceded it. It brought the first waggons to The Dalles, and it contained many persons of subsequent note and distinction in the country. Among these were Applegate, Burnett, Waldo, Holman and Nesmith, and others equally worthy of being mentioned if time would admit.

Applegate was a farmer, trader and surveyor from Missouri. Full of original thought and suggestion, of great energy and endurance, he has written his plain

Saxon name upon every page of the early annals of the country, but lacking the useful talent for either leading or following others, more often in the minority than otherwise.

As I said in a sketch of him which was published some ten years ago:

"Without being in any sense a party leader or direct manager of men and having but little of the huckstering talent that conduces to getting along in the world, yet by force of his self abnegation and Catonian independence—his ever asserted individuality and persistent pressure upon the mobile masses, he has left the impress of his thoughts, opinions and prejudices all along the pages of our history. He is now well advanced in years, and I suppose will end his toilsome life, within the sound of the sweet babbling brook, in which he has so long performed his early morning ablutions, and be buried at the base of the cloud-capped mountain, that gives name to his early home. It is pleasant to think that in after years, coming generations while enjoying the fruit of his early privations and labors, will, as they pass to and fro, slip aside from the highway, and pause a moment to contemplate the tomb of The Sage of Yoncalla."

Burnett was a lawyer from the same State. His legal knowledge and experience were of great benefit to the young community in remodelling the government in 1845. In 1844 he wrote a series of letters, giving an interesting account of the country and the immigration of the previous year, which were published in the east, and did much to attract favorable attention to the country and point the way to it. Upon the organization of the territorial government in 1848, he declined the position of justice of the supreme court, and removed to California, where he was made governor, then justice of the supreme court and is still living, surrounded with—

"——that which should accompany old age.
As honor, love, obedience, troops of friends."

Waldo was a substantial farmer from Missouri also. He settled in the red hills, east of Salem, and impressed upon them his euphonius name. He sat in the legislature of the provisional government. I believe he has never held any other office, but his opinion of public men and measures has commonly affected the vote of his neighborhood. He still lives, and while Waldo Hills are Waldo Hills, his name will be remembered as a synonym for independence and integrity.

Holman was a respectable farmer, a native of Kentucky, but from Missouri to Oregon. He was the forerunner of a large family connection, that followed him to the country, and contributed largely to the good order, morality and well being of the colony.

Nesmith was a roving

> "——youth to fortune and to fame unknown,
> Fair science frown'd not on his humble birth."

But a person of his great natural ability could not long remain in the background of this young and free community. He soon wore the colonial ermine, and sat in the leislative halls, and commanded in the armies of the provisional government. He has since held many responsible public positions, including the office of Representative and Senator in the Congress of the United States, with usefulness to the country and credit to himself. His *braid* Scotch humor and peerless, pitiless, pungent wit, have made him famous on both shores of the Republic. When his brief candle is out, any of us who remain, may exclaim—

> "——He was man, take him for all in all,
> I shall not look upon his like again."

Among the immigrants of 1844 were Stephens', Johnson, Perkins', Welch, Ford, Gough, Smith, Watt and Lee. The majority of them have passed away, but in their lives they did their duty by the country. Stephens still lives where he first settled, but in the mean time East Portland has spread over his land claim. Welch still flourishes like a green bay tree, down by the deep sounding sea, at Astoria, and looks as if he may live long enough to see that most ancient city of the Pacific rival in grandeur and commerce the Bride of the Adriatic. Smith has long been a man of mark in business circles and public affairs. While he answered to the name of Oregon, at the roll call in the House of Representatives, she had no cause to blush for her Pioneer Congressman.

In 1847, Watt went East and returned the following year with the first or second flock of sheep ever driven to the country. He aided materially in the establishment of the Salem Woolen Mill, in 1857. He has been a steady worker and builder and generally a benefactor of mankind, according to the Jeffersonian test, by causing the portion of the earth committed to his care to increase and double its products.

The roll of immigration of 1845 contains among others, the names of Rector, Wilcox, Barlow, Stephens, Terwilliger, Bennett, Cornelius, King, Palmer, and Greenbury Smith. Most of them are yet in the ranks of the living. Barlow cut the waggon road around the base of Mount Hood, across the Cascade mountains, in 1846. The building of railways since has been of less importance to the community, than the opening of this road, which enabled the settlers to bring their waggons and teams directly into the valley.

Wilcox has served in the Legislature and held many other positions with the highest integrity. With his ability and popularity, he only lacked audacity or

industry, or both, to have long since been one of the foremost men in Oregon. But perhaps he has chosen the better part. "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

Few men, in this or any country, have labored harder or more disinterestedly for the public good than General Joel Palmer. A man of ardent temperament, strong friendships, and full of hope for and confidence in his fellow men, he has unreservedly given the flower of his life for the best interests of Oregon—and of all the early Pioneers it may be justly said of him—"He deserves well of his country."

Rector was no ordinary man. Amid the sneers and indifference of the community, he projected and established, in 1857, the Pioneer woolen mill of the Pacific coast. To-day, the town of Salem has good reason, because of her factories and water power, to be thankful that he ever settled within her borders.*

The journey across the plains was one of great length and risks, to be undertaken with ox teams, and without roads, or any conveniences or supplies, except such as could be carried along. The waggon was the ship by day and the house and fortress by night. Occasionally death invaded the ranks of the caravan, and then a fresh grave denoted the stricken wayfarer's last camping place on earth; while not unfrequently, a little stranger was introduced to the camp without the aid of Esculapius or the expense of a trousseau.

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*Since the delivery of this oration, Mr. Joseph Watt, thinking that the foregoing statement in regard to Mr. Rector's connection with the woolen mill, needs qualification, has written me an account of the founding of this important work, from which I condense the following: In the summer of 1855 as wool was almost worthless for exportation, Mr. Watt conceived the idea of building a woolen mill in Oregon. After conferring with Mr. Reynolds (now of Wallawalla), and a few others, he drew up articles for the government of "The *Wallamette* Woolen Manufacturing Co.," with a capital of $25,000 divided into shares of $250. This was the name given the company and that paper is still on the files of the office. The articles provided that the mill should be located wherever $4,000 of the stock was subscribed. Watt was anxious to locate at Salem, because he thought the people of that place would take an interest in the matter, not so much for itself, but as a means of getting the water from the Santiam brought into the town. By the spring of 1856 the necessary amount of stock being taken—principally in Yamhill and Polk counties—a meeting to locate was held at Dallas, and Watt and Reynolds having a majority of the votes decided the question in favor of Salem. After much labor and time, the Salem people were induced to take stock in the enterprise. The most active of them in the matter, being Waldo, Holman, Minto, Rector, Joe Wilson, Williams and Boon,—the latter giving the company the valuable property upon which the mill was built. In the summer of 1856, Rector was made Superintendent and went east the following fall to procure workman and machinery. During the summer of 1857, Watt superintended the construction of the mill building and the race from the Santiam, both of which labors were completed by November of that year. MATTHEW P. DEADY.

When we consider how little was known of the country in those early days, and the dangers and hardships which might be encountered and suffered along the route, who can hesitate to admire the heroism which led those Pioneers, with their wives and children, to undertake such a journey and sustained them through the weary length of it. Nothing like it has ever occurred on this continent. The only parallel to it, in profane history, is the famous "Retreat of the Ten Thousand"—and in that case the distance traversed was less than 1000 miles compared with 2,000 in this. What a theme it affords for the poet and the painter. Not the showy, sneering caricature of Bierstadt, upon which the ignorant and ostentatious Dives lavishes his surplus coin, but the truthful and heroic delineation of some noble soul, capable of appreciating the grandeur and simplicity of the motives which induced those humble and unknown men and women to undertake this marvelous journey—that Oregon might be brought under the ægis of the American Union and her hills and valleys become the inheritance of their children.

But yesterday one of Oregon's poetic sons showed us in a few rough-hewn but graphic, imaginative stanzas, what high inspiration can be drawn from this memorable march by one capable of appreciating all that it reveals and suggests. Here are a few lines, taken at random from the poem—PIONEERS OF THE PACIFIC, by Miller:

* * * * * * *

"The wild man's yell, the groaning wheel,
The train that moved like drifting barge;
The dust rose up like a cloud,
Like smoke of distant battle! Loud
The great whips rang like shot, and steel
Flashed back as in some battle charge.

They sought, yea, they did find their rest
Along that long and lonesome way,
Those brave men buffeting the West
With lifted faces. Full were they
Of great endeavor.

* * * * * * *

When
Adown the shining iron track
We sweep, and fields of corn flash back,
And herds of lowing steers move by,
I turn to other days, to men
Who made a pathway with their dust."

It is well, fellow citizens, that you cherish the memory of these early days and magnify and extol the conduct and qualities of these worthy founders of this great and growing commonwealth. You and those who come after you,

will in turn be elevated and improved by the proud consciousness that your progenitors and predecessors deserved and received the meed of honor and esteem for lives spent in noble and useful deeds. Doubtless there is a pride of ancestry which is a weakness and a care for posterity which is only disguised selfishness. But there is both beauty and truth in the sentiment of Webster, expressed on a similar occasion: "There is also a moral and philosophical respect for our ancestors, which elevates the character and impresses the heart. Next to the sense of religious duty and moral feeling, I hardly know what should bear with stronger obligation on a liberal and enlightened mind, than a consciousness of alliance with excellence which is departed; and a consciousness too, that in its acts and conduct, and even in its sentiments and thoughts it may be actively operating on the happiness of those who come after it."

With the influx of the immigration of 1843 and 1844, the Committee government of the former year was found insufficient for the population. An enlarged and more absolute form of government was accordingly prepared by some of the leading minds of the colony, and by the Legislative Committee submitted to the people, on July 5, 1845, when it was approved by a majority of 203 votes. By this change, a single Executive was substituted for the Executive Committee of three, while the Legislative Committee of nine was superseeded by "a House of Representatives," consisting of not less than 13 nor more than 61 members. Abernethy, who came to the country as the Steward of the Mission, was chosen Governor annually for the next four years. In a late paper from the facile pen of one of Oregon's distinguished Pioneers, I find the following notice of him: "George Abernethy, an intelligent Christian gentleman, unassuming, indisposed to court popular favor, with strong common sense, and a desire to do his duty consciously and quietly was the right man for the occasion, and whatever prejudice may assert to the contrary, it was fortunate for the colony that just such a person could be had to fill the highest and most responsible position in the pioneer government."

And thus, thirty years ago, was established, by a mere handful of people, on this then remote and inaccessible land, that famous Provisional Government, which carried the country with honor and credit through the vicissitudes of peace and war, until March 3, 1849, when the Territorial Government provided by Congress was proclaimed at Oregon City, amid the rejoicings of the people, by its first Governor—General Joseph Lane.

But already, the country was practically the territory of the United States, by the highest and best title in existence—the actual occupation and control of it by her citizens. The subsequent acknowledgement by the treaty of 1846, of the American right to Oregon, was only a formal recognition of the fact, that the

long contest for the occupation of the country had terminated in favor of the OREGON PIONEER.

Nor was this all. As was well said by Gov. Grover in his address to you on a former occasion: "As great events generally follow in clusters, the acquisition of California followed in 1848, by military occupancy. It is fair to claim that our government never would have ventured with the small force it had at command, to push its arms to the Pacific, in Mexican territory, during the war with Mexico, if we did not already possess a domain in that quarter, and a reliable American population in Oregon. So that the Pioneers of Oregon were really the fathers of American jurisdiction over all that magnificent domain of the United States, west of the Rocky mountains—an empire in itself."

Yes! WORTHY PIONEERS, to you, whom Heaven has kindly granted to see this day, and your absent but not forgotten brethren and friends, who made a pathway to the country with their dust, or have since given their lives for its defense, or fallen asleep in its valleys, are we chiefly indebted for this grand and benificent result. By your great endeavors an empire in limits has been added to the jurisdiction of the United States, and to-day the sun in his journey across the heavens shines down upon a continuous Union of American States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Verily you have your reward! and they who come after you shall rise up and do you honor.

THE OCCASIONAL ADDRESS.

BY HON. J. W. NESMITH.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
OF THE OREGON PIONEER ASSOCIATION:

Having been honored with an invitation to address you at this your third annual re-union, with the understanding that my remarks are to be preserved in your archives as a portion of the recorded history of your society, I have reduced to writing the little that I have to say, and shall submit it in the form of mere dry narrative, feeling more than compensated if my humble effort shall contribute to the value of the records which your society proposes to gather up and preserve for the use and edification of those who are to be our successors. History is said to be "Philosophy teaching by example." Among all civilized people there exists a desire to be informed relative to the past.

The example taught by the acts of those who have preceded us, have doubtless contributed to our edification. Historians, philosophers and antiquarians have devoted ages to the most laborious investigation and research, spreading barrels of ink over tons of paper in their attempts to elucidate incidents, phases and facts which might and have been preserved by those whose lives were cotemporaneous with the subjects sought to be investigated.

The philosophic presentation of those examples of the past have not always been of the most reliable or definite character, and it is to be regretted that so much valuable time has been wasted in arriving at conclusions called history, but only worthy to be regarded as mythical fictions. If the founders of ancient and extinct empires and kingdoms could be recalled to earth they would feel like instituting suits for libel against the historians who have recorded their acts, if their remedy in that direction was not barred by the statute of limitation. In the rude and barbaric ages of the past, when the preservation of facts and incidents depended solely upon the uncertainty of tradition, they must have suffered terrible mutations incident to that faulty mode of preservation.

Human nature is so constituted with its bias of prejudice and self-interest, to say nothing of defective memory, that it is rarely that two persons who witness

the same incident can, with the most honest intentions, give a similar version of what actually did occur.

It seems to be the accepted maxim, and doubtless with some foundation in reason, that no man is qualified to write the history of the time in which he lives, and that a truthful record of current events requires the conservative and mellowing influence of time to render them perfectly impartial and reliable. It seems to be the mission of historians to gather up facts and incidents of the past, with their cotemporaneous illustrations, and weave them together in a web of probabilities, often colored by the passions and prejudices of the writer.

The proof of the fact that historians look at objects and incidents of the past through magnifying or contracting lenses is to be found in what is recognized as History, both sacred and profane.

A correct narration of the condition, situation and surroundings of the early settlers of our State will be of interest to those who succeed us. Their mode of life, dress, manners, occupation, state of their manufactories, agricultural and other industries, and all that pertained to their comparatively rude and primitive condition must be of value to their successors in estimating the progress and benefits of civilization.

In the far-off future, when the "New Zealander will sit upon the ruined pier of London bridge," and indulge in antiquarian cogitations relative to the past, it might be convenient for him or some other delver in historic mine, to refer to the archives of the Oregon Pioneer Society to establish the fact that the founders of our State, unlike Romulus and Remus, derived their sustenance from something more respectable than a she wolf.

It is then evidently a duty that we owe to posterity—as the second article of your constitution has it—"To collect from living witnesses such facts relating to the Pioneers and history of the Territory of Oregon as the Association may deem worthy of preservation."

The treasures thus gathered up may seem to be of little present value to their possessors, but the time will come when posterity will highly prize and appreciate them. It will be of interest to those who are to inhabit this country centuries hence to know in what manner and by whom it was settled and reclaimed from the dominion of savages. It may be true that the progress of civilization and the accompanying arts and sciences will be such as to place our posterity upon a plane so high above us as to induce them to look upon the trials and privations of the pioneer with contempt, just as the modern pleasure seeker who crosses the Atlantic in a well appointed steamship fails to discover anything in that exploit which should confer immortality upon Christopher Columbus,

who previously performed that voyage without some of the convenient appliances developed by modern sciences.

In a few years hence, as the traveler in search of pleasure, crosses the continent,—when every foot of it shall be occupied with thrifty farms and smiling villages, and with luxury in every form contributing to his comfort and enjoyment, he will wonder what sort of stupid people Lewis and Clark, and the early emigrants were to spend from six months to two years wandering about, half starved, in a country that he crosses in sixty hours without suffering any discomforts or inconveniences. Indeed, the early exploits of discoverers, navigators, and warriors, dwindle into insignificance when viewed in the light of modern science and improvement.

The performances of Horsea and Hingurst, Christopher Columbus, Americus Vespucci, Cortez, Pizarro, and Lewis and Clark, would excite no comment in modern times if accomplished by the aid of modern appliances.

Darius did not resist Miltiades at Marathon with a battery of Modern artillery and Leonidas failed to use Gatling guns and revolvers against the hosts of Xerxes at Thermopylæ.

Had the patriots on Bunker Hill been armed with the Springfield breech-loader, no red-coat would have entered that historic redoubt.

But those failures or neglects simply illustrate the progress of the world. That progress which has received such an impetus within the last quarter of a century as to astonish those of us who have witnessed it, is not likely to be retarded or impeded, and two or three generations hence will look back upon us as a very primitive sort of people. While they will pity our ignorance, it may interest them to read of our lives and adventures as pioneers.

In looking over the former proceedings of your society, at the meetings which I did not have the pleasure of attending, I perceive that the questions relative to the organization of the provisional government have been ably presented in the main, with, however, some slight inaccuracies, which would be incident to any narration of facts so long after their occurrence. Not desiring to go over the same grounds so ably occupied by others at your previous re-unions, I have concluded to confine myself in this address to a statement of Oregon as I found it in 1843, who came here with me, and whom we found when we came. I might at this point add, by way of an apology, my regrets that the various and pressing demands upon my time have not permitted me to exhaust the facts and data at my disposal, which bear upon the early history and settlement of the country. I have therefore condensed my present communication to the narrowest possible limits.

As early as the year 1840, being then an adventurous youth in what at that time was known as the "Far West," I had heard of Oregon as a "*Terra Incognita*" somewhere upon the western slope of the continent, as a country to which the United States had some sort of a claim, and

> "Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound,
> Save his own dashings."

During the winter of 1841-2, being in Jefferson county, Iowa, I incidentally heard that a party contemplated leaving Independence in May or June, 1842, for Oregon, under the leadership of Dr. Elijah White, who had formerly been in Oregon connected with the Methodist missions, and who was then about returning to the Territory in the service of the U. S. Government as Sub-Indian agent. Thinking this a good opportunity to make the trip which I had some time contemplated, I mounted my horse and rode across Western Iowa, then a wilderness, and arrived at Independence seventeen days after White and his party had left. I at first contemplated following them up alone, but learning that the murderous Pawnees were then hostile, I was advised not to attempt the dangerous experiment. I therefore abandoned the trip for the present, and spent most of the ensuing year in the employment of the government as a carpenter, in the construction of Fort Scott, in Kansas, about 100 miles south of Independence.

During the winter of 1842-3, Dr. Marcus Whitman, then a missionary in the Walla Walla valley visited Washington to intercede in behalf of the American interests on this coast.

Dr. Lewis F. Linn was then in the U. S. Senate, from Missouri, and took a great interest in the settlement of Oregon. The means for the transmission of news at that time was slow and meagre upon the frontier, it being before the day of railroads, telegraph and postage stamps. But the Oregon question through the medium of Senators Benton and Linn, and Dr. Whitman, did create some commotion in Washington and enough of it found its way to the "Far West," to make some stir among the ever restless and adventurous frontiersmen. Without any formal promulgation it became fairly understood, and was so published in the few border papers then in existence, that our emigration party would rendezvous at Independence to start for Oregon as soon as the grass would subsist the stock.

Without orders from any quarter, and without preconcert, promptly as the grass began to start, the emigrants began to assemble near Independence, at a place called Fitzhugh's Mill. On the 17th day of May, 1843, notices were circulated through the different encampments that on the succeeding day, those

contemplating emigration to Oregon, would meet at a designated point to organize.

Promptly at the appointed hour the motley groups assembled. It consisted of people from all the States and Territories, and nearly all nationalities. The most however, from Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri and Iowa, and all strangers to one another, but impressed with some crude idea that there existed an imperative necessity for some kind of an organization for mutual protection against the hostile Indians inhabiting the great unknown wilderness stretching away to the shores of the Pacific, and which they were about to traverse with their wives and children, household goods and all their earthly possessions.

Many of the emigrants were from the western tier of counties of Missouri, know as the Platte Purchase, and among them was Peter H. Burnett, a former merchant, who had abandoned the yardstick and become a lawyer of some celebrity for his ability as a smooth-tongued advocate. He subsequently emigrated to California, and was elected the first Governor of the Golden State, was afterward Chief Justice, and still an honored resident of that State. Mr. Burnett, or, as he was familiarly designated, "Pete," was called upon for a speech. Mounting a log, the glib-tongued orator delivered a glowing, florid address. He commenced by showing his audience that the then western tier of States and Territories was overcrowded with a redundant population, who had not sufficient elbow room for the expansion of their enterprise and genius, and it was a duty they owed to themselves and posterity to strike out in search of a more expanded field and more genial climate, where the soil yielded the richest return for the slightest amount of cultivation, where the trees were loaded with perennial fruit and where a good substitute for bread, called *La Camash*, grew in the ground, salmon and other fish crowded the streams, and where the principal labor of the settler would be confined to keeping their gardens free from the inroads of buffalo, elk, deer and wild turkeys. He appealed to our patriotism by picturing forth the glorious empire we would establish upon the shores of the Pacific. How, with our trusty rifles, we would drive out the British usurpers who claimed the soil, and defend the country from the avarice and pretensions of the British lion, and how posterity would honor us for placing the fairest portion of our land under the dominion of the stars and stripes. He concluded with a slight allusion to the trials and hardships incident to the trip and dangers to be encountered from hostile Indians on the route, and those inhabiting the country whither we were bound. He furthermore intimated a desire to look upon the tribe of noble "red men" that the valiant and well armed crowd around him could not vanquish in a single encounter.

Other speeches were made, full of glowing descriptions of the fair land of

promise, the far away Oregon which no one in the assemblage had ever seen, and of which not more than half a dozen had ever read any account. After the election of Mr. Burnett, as captain, and other necessary officers, the meeting, as motley and primitive a one as ever assembled, adjourned, with "three cheers" for Capt. Burnett and Oregon.

On the 20th day of May, 1843, after a pretty thorough military organization, we took up our line of march, with Capt. John Gantt, an old army officer, who combined the character of trapper and mountaineer, as our guide. Gantt had in his wanderings been as far as Green river and assured us of the practicability of a wagon road thus far. Green river, the extent of our guide's knowledge in that direction, was not half-way to the Willamette valley, the then only inhabited portion of Oregon. Beyond that we had not the slightest conjecture of the condition of the country. We went forth trusting to the future and would doubtless have encountered more difficulties than we experienced had not Dr. Whitman overtaken us before we reached the terminus of our guide's knowledge. He was familiar with the whole route and was confident that wagons could pass through the canyons and gorges of Snake river and over the Blue mountains, which the mountaineers in the vicinity of Fort Hall declared to be a physical impossibility.

Capt. Grant then in charge of the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Hall, endeavored to dissuade us from proceeding further with our wagons, and showed us the wagons that the emigrants of the preceding year had abandoned, as an evidence of the impracticability of our determination.

Dr. Whitman was persistent in his assertions that wagons could proceed as far as the Grand Dalles of the Columbia river, from which point he asserted they could be taken down by rafts or batteaux to the Willamette valley, while our stock could be driven by an Indian trail over the Cascade mountains, near Mt. Hood.

Happily Whitman's advice prevailed, and a large number of the wagons with a portion of the stock, did reach Walla Walla and the Dalles, from which points they were taken to the Willamette the following year.

Had we followed Grant's advice and abandoned the cattle and wagons at Fort Hall, much suffering must have ensued, as a sufficient number of horses to carry the women and children of the party could not have been obtained, besides wagons and cattle were indispensible to men expecting to live by farming in a country destitute of such articles.

At Fort Hall, we fell in with some Cayuse and Nez Perce Indians returning from the buffalo country, and as it was necessary for Dr. Whitman to precede us

to Walla Walla, he recommended to us a guide in the person of an old Cayuse Indian called "Sticcus." He was a faithful old fellow, perfectly familiar with all the trails and topography of the country from Fort Hall to The Dalles, and although not speaking a word of English, and no one in our party a word of Cayuse, he succeeded by pantomime in taking us over the roughest wagon route I ever saw. Sticcus was a member of Dr. Whitman's church, and the only Indian I ever saw that I thought had any conception of, and practiced the Christian religion. I met him afterward in the Cayuse war. He did not participate in the murder of Dr. Whitman and his family, and remained neutral during the war between his tribe and the whites, which grew out of the massacre. I once dined with Sticcus, in his camp, upon what I supposed to be elk meat. I had arrived at that conclusion because, looking at the cooked meat and then at the old Indian interrogatively, he held up his hands in a manner that indicated elk horns; but, after dinner, seeing the ears, tail and hoofs of a mule near camp, I became satisfied that what he meant to convey by his pantomime was "ears" not "horns," but digestion waited upon appetite, and after the dinner was over it did not make much difference about the appendages of the animal that furnished it. It not being my intention to weary your patience with a detailed narration of our toilsome march across the continent, I shall leave that portion of the subject for some more convenient season, with the assurance to you that the data in my possession, if in the hands of a skillful Defoe, would be a sufficient and truthful basis for a narrative as entertaining as Robinson Crusoe.

Having been elected by the people comprising the emigration to the position of Orderly Sergeant, with the duties of Adjutant, it devolved upon me to make up a complete roll of the male members of the company capable of bearing arms, and including all above the age of sixteen years.

They were divided into four details for guard duty, thus giving one-fourth of the company a turn of guard duty every fourth day, or as the soldiers express it, we had "three nights in bed." I have that old roll before me, and it is the only authentic copy extant.

It has lain among my musty documents for nearly a third of a century, and I shall now proceed to call over the names with the sad consciousness that the most of them have answered to their last roll-call upon earth, and I hope have made a better exchange for the troubles of this life. Still, I would take it as a great favor of those present would answer promptly as their names are again called after a lapse of thirty-two years, and I will mark those who have survived that long period and answer "here" as *present for duty*.

THE ROLL OF 1843.

Applegate, Jesse
Applegate, Charles
Applegate, Lindsey
Athey, James
Athey, William
Atkinson, John
Arthur, Wm.
Arthur, Robert
Arthur, David
Butler, Amon
Brooke, George
Burnett, Peter H
Bird, David
Brown, Thomas A
Blevins, Alexander
Brooks, John P
Brown, Martin
Brown, Oris
Black, J. P.
Bane, Layton
Baker, Andrew
Baker, John G.
Beagle, William
Boyd, Levi
Baker, William
Biddle, Nicholas
Beale, George
Braidy, James
Beadle, George
Boardman, —
Baldridge, Wm.
Cason, F. C.
Cason, James
Chapman, Wm.
Cox, John
Champ, Jacob
Cooper, L. C.
Cone, James
Childers, Moses
Carey, Miles
Cochran, Thomas
Clymour, L.
Copenhaver, John
Caton, J. H.
Chappel, Alfred
Cronin, Daniel
Cozine, Samuel
Costable, Benedict
Childs, Joseph
Clark, Ransom
Campbell, John G.
Chapman, —
Chase, James
Dodd, Solomon
Dement, Wm. C.
Dougherty, W. P.
Day, William
Duncan, James
Dorin, Jacob
Davis, Thomas
Delany, Daniel
Delany, Daniel, Jr.
Delany, William
Doke, William
Davis, J. H.
Davis, Burrell
Dailey, George
Doherty, John
Dawson, —
Eaton, Charles.
Eaton, Nathan
Etchell, James
Emerick, Solomon
Eaker, John W.
Edson, E. G.
Eyres, Miles
East, John W
Everman, Niniwon
Ford, Ninevah
Ford, Ephram
Ford, Nimrod
Ford, John
Francis, Alexander
Frazier, Abner
Frazier, Wm.
Fowler, Wm.
Fowler, Wm. J.
Fowler, Henry
Fairly, Stephen
Fendall, Charles
Gantt, John
Gray, Chiley B.
Garrison, Enoch
Garrison, J. W.
Garrison, W. J.
Gardner, Wm.
Gardner, Samuel
Gilmore, Mat.
Goodman, Richard
Gilpin, Major
Gray, —
Haggard, B.
Hide, H. H.
Holmes, Wm.
Holmes, Riley A.
Hobson, John
Hobson, Wm.
Hembre, J. J.
Hembre, James
Hembre, Andrew
Hembre, A. J.
Hall, Samuel B.
Houk, James
Hughes, Wm. P.
Hendrick, Abijah
Hays, James
Hensley, Thomas J.

THE ROLL OF 1843.—*Continued.*

Holley, B.	Little, Milton	O'Brien, Hugh D.
Hunt, Henry	Luther, —	O'Brien, Humphrey
Holderness, S. M.	Lauderdale, John	Owen, Thomas A.
Hutchins, Isaac	McGee, —	Owen, Thomas
Husted, A.	Martin, Wm. J.	Otie, E. W.
Hess, Joseph	Martin, James	Otie, M. B.
Haun, Jacob	Martin, Julius	O'Neil, Bennett
Howell, John	McClelland, —	Olinger, A.
Howell, Wm.	McClelland, F.	Parker, Jesse
Howell, Wesley	Mills, John B.	Parker, William
Howell, G. W.	Mills, Isaac	Pennington, J. B.
Howell, Thomas E.	Mills, Wm. A.	Poe, R. H.
Hill, Henry	Mills, Owen	Paynter, Samuel
Hill, William	McGarey, G. W.	Patterson, J. R.
Hill, Almoran	Mondon, Gilbert	Pickett, Charles E.
Hewett, Henry	Matheny, Daniel	Prigg, Frederick
Hargrove, Wm.	Matheny, Adam	Paine, Clayborn
Hoyt, A.	Matheny, J. N.	Reading, P. B.
Holman, John	Matheny, Josiah	Rodgers, S. P.
Holman, Daniel	Matheny, Henry	Rodgers, G. W.
Harrigas, B.	Mastire, A. J.	Kussell, William
James, Calvin	McHaley, John	Roberts, James
Jackson, John B.	Myers, Jacob	Rice, G. W.
Jones, John	Manning, John	Richardson, John
Johnson, Overton	Manning, James	Richardson, Daniel
Keyser, Thomas	McCarver, M. M.	Ruby, Philip
Keyser, J. B.	McCorcle, George	Ricord, John
Keyser, Pleasant	Mays, William	Reid, Jacob
Kelley, —	Millican, Elijah	Roe, John
Kelsey, —	McDaniel, William	Roberts, Solomon
Lovejoy, A. L.	McKissic, D.	Roberts, Emseley
Lenox, Edward	Malone, Madison	Rossin, Joseph
Lenox, E.	McClane, John B.	Rives, Thomas
Layson, Aaron	Mauzee, William	Smith, Thomas H.
Looney, Jesse	McIntire, John	Smith, Thomas
Long, John E.	Moore, Jackson	Smith, Isaac W.
Lee, H. A. G.	Matney, W. J.	Smith, Anderson
Lugur, F.	Nesmith, J. W.	Smith, Ahi
Linebarger, Lew	Newby, W. T.	Smith, Robert
Linebarger, John	Newman, Noah	Smith, Eli
Laswell, Isaac	Naylor, Thomas	Sheldon, William
Loughborough, J.	Osborn, Neil	Stewart, P. G.

THE ROLL OF 1843.—*Concluded.*

Sutton, Dr. Nathaniel	Stringer, C. W.	Williams, Benjamin
Stimmerman, C.	Tharp, Lindsey	Williams, David
Sharp, C.	Thompson, John	Wilson, Wm.
Summers, W. C.	Trainor, D.	Williams, John
Sewell, Henry	Teller, Jeremiah	Williams, James
Stout, Henry	Tarbox, Stephen	Williams, Squire
Sterling, George	Umnicker, John	Williams, Isaac
Stout, —	Vance, Samuel	Ward, T. B.
Stevenson, —	Vaughn, William	White, James
Story, James	Vernon, George	Watson, John (Betty)
Swift, —	Wilmont, James	Waters, James
Shively, John M.	Wilson, Wm. H.	Winter, Wm.
Shirley, Samuel	Wair, J. W.	Waldo, Daniel
Stoughton, Alexander	Winkle, Archibald	Waldo, David
Spencer, Chancey	Williams, Edward	Waldo, William
Strait, Hiram	Wheeler, H.	Zachary, Alexander
Summers, George	Wagoner, John	Zachary, John
Stringer, Cornelius		

Alas! alas! of my 295 comrades who marched across the border at Fitzhugh's mill, with rifles on their shoulders, on the morning of the 20th of May, 1843, but 13 are here to-day to respond to the roll-call.

Time has sadly decimated our ranks, and the thin line that to-day presents itself as the remnant of the old guard of "43" is in the melancholy contrast with that gallant battalion of brave hearts and strong arms which so full of life and hope marched over the border thirty-two years ago. Many of them have fallen in defense of our infant settlement against the ruthless savages that surrounded us, and now fill honored but undecorated graves. Some I have with my own hands consigned to their last resting place; others have found homes in the surrounding States and Territories, while a few are scattered about over Oregon. In a few years, the last of us will have taken our departure for a better land as I hope, and our places will be occupied by strangers. Posterity will not, however, forget the sacrifices, the trials and privations we have endured in our efforts to make the "wilderness bud and blossom like the rose."

My duty did not require me to make out a list of the women and children, and I have always regretted that it was omitted. Such a list would be of interest to

many who were then young and whose names ought to be enrolled as belonging to the emigration of 1843.

The ladies who accompanied us and who have contributed so much to the prosperity of our young State, deserve to be enumerated in the list of early settlers, but that important duty seems to have been neglected by those who had more time at their disposal than I had.

Men are generally governed in their actions by some rational motive. I have often been asked by refined and cultivated people in Washington the reason for my coming to Oregon at that early day, and I have found it a difficult question to answer. I was a poor, homeless youth, destitute alike of friends, money and education. Actuated by a reckless spirit of adventure, one place was to me the same as another. No tie of near kindred or possessions bound me to any spot of the earth's surface. Thinking my condition might be made better, and knowing it could not be worse, I took the leap in the dark. But in the emigration that accompanied me, there were staid men of mature years and cultivated intilects—men who left comparatively comfortable homes and friends, with their wives and children, gave up the advantages of civilization to cross a desert continent beset with hostile savages, to go they knew not whither, and with the certainty that in the event of a defeat by Indians, or finding Oregon uninhabitable, there could be no possibility of returning. The chances were more than even that if they escaped the scalping knife of the savages, it would only be to perish by starvation. So far as lands at reasonable rates and a fruitful soil were desirable, they were surrounded with them in the homes they abandoned. No monarchical or arbitrary government oppressed them, no religious zealots persecuted them. They fled from no such evils as brought either the pilgrims or cavaliers to the New World; nor was their avarice tempted by the inducements which sent Cortez and his companions to Mexico, or Pizarro to Peru—for the existence of precious metals in this region was then unknown.

Then it may be asked, why did such men peril everything—burning their ships behind them, exposing their helpless families to the possibilities of massacre and starvation, braving death—and for what purpose? I am not quite certain that any rational answer will ever be given to that question. At the time we came, there was comparatively nothing known of the possessions to which we had a disputed title on this coast. Lewis and Clark had only beheld the valley of the Columbia river. The missionary reports were confined principally to exaggerated accounts of Indian conversions, while other writings upon the subject of Oregon were a mixture of fiction and perverted fact that contained no definite information of the country and its resources.

The Hon. Nathaniel Pendleton had written a report, submitting to the House of Representatives, of which he was a member in 1841 or '42, which was mostly a compilation of such information as he could gather up from the meagre sources then existing.

The best informed men in both Houses of Congress, excepting, perhaps, Benton and Linn, placed no value upon the country, while some of them deprecated any attempt at its settlement, and derided the idea of its ever becoming a portion of the American Union.

The furor about "54:40 or fight" was raised subsequently, when that alliteration became the rallying cry of a political party. But whatever might have been the motive of the early settlers, their labors resulted in the acquisition of one of the most valuable portions of the American Union, and their efforts in that behalf will be recognized and appreciated by posterity.

But to return to the consideration of the facts connected with the emigration of 1843, as shown by the roll just called. There were 295 male persons above the age of sixteen, capable of bearing arms. There were 111 wagons and vehicles or different kinds, but no pleasure conveyance. The greater portion of the teams consisted of oxen.

Of the party, the following named persons turned back on the Platte: Nicholas Biddle, Alexander Francis, F. Lugur, John Loughborough and Jackson Moore.

Their hearts weakened at the prospect of the toil, privations and dangers of the trip and the great uncertainty of its termination. In view of all the surrounding circumstances then existing, I am of the opinion that those who turned back manifested more descretion, but less valor than those of us who braved the dangers and uncertainties of the trip.

The following named persons died at different points on the route: — Stevenson died on the Sandy; Clayborn Paine died on the Sweetwater; Daniel Richardson died at Fort Hall; McClelland, Miles Eyers and C. M. Stringer were drowned in the Columbia; William Day arrived sick, and died at Fort Vancouver.

At Fort Hall, the following named persons turned off and went to California: J. Atkinson, — Boardman, Joseph Childs, — Dawson, John Gantt, Milton Little, Capt. Wm. J. Martin, Julius Martin, F. McClelland, — McGee, John McIntire, John Williams, James Williams, Squire Williams, Isaac Williams, P. B. Reading and Thos. J. Hensley.

Deducting those who turned back and those who died on the road, together

with those who went to California, left the actual number of our immigration who arrived here, 268. Upon our arrival, we found in the country the following persons, exclusive of missionaries, and who might be included in the general term of settlers. They had found their way here from different points, some crossing the Rocky mountains from the Eastern States, some of them sailors who had abandoned the sea, while others were trappers who had exchanged the uncertainties of nomadic life for farming; others had found their way from California:

Armstrong, Pleasant	Gale Joseph	Newell Robert
Burns, Hugh	Girtman, —	O'Neil, James A.
Brown, —	Hathawy, Felix	Pettygrove, F. W.
Brown, William	Hatch, Peter H.	Pomeroy, Dwight
Brown, —	Hubbard, Thomas	Pomeroy, Walter
Black, J. M.	Hewitt, Adam	Perry, —
Baldro, —	Horegon, Jeremiah	Rimmick, —
Balis, James	Holman, Joseph	Russell, Osborn
Bailey, Dr.	Hill, David	Robb, J. R.
Brainard, —	Hoxhurst, Weberly	Shortess, Robert
Crawford, Medorem	Hutchinson, —	Smith, Sidney
Carter, David	Johnson, William	Smith, —
Campbell, Samuel	King, —	Smith, Andrew
Campbell, Jack	Kelsey, —	Smith, Andrew, Jr.
Craig, Wm.	Lewis, Reuben	Smith, Darling
Cook, Amos	LeBreton, G. W.	Spence, —
Cook, Aaron	Larrison, Jack	Sailor, Jack
Conner, —	Meek, Joseph L.	Turnham, Joel
Cannon, William	Mathieu, F. X.	Turner, —
Davy, Allen	McClure, John	Taylor, Hiram
Doty, William	Moss, S. W.	Tibbetts, Calvin
Eakin, Richard	Moore, Robert	Trask, —
Eebbetts, Squire	McFadden, —	Walker, C. M.
Edwards, John	McCarty, William	Warner, Jack
Foster, Philip	McKay, Charles	Wilson, A. E.
Force, John	McKay, Thomas	Winslow, David
Force, James	Morrison, —	Wilkins, Caleb
Fletcher, Francis	Mack, J. W.	Wood, Henry
Gay, George	Newbanks, —	Williams, B.

On the arrival of immigration in the fall of 1843, we found in the country the following named persons, as Protestant missionaries, or connected with the missions:

Dr. Marcus Whitman,	W. H. Gray,	— Brewer,
A. F. Waller,	E. Walker,	Dr. Babcock,
David Leslie,	E. Eells,	Dr. Elijah White,
Hamilton Campbell,	Alanson Beers,	Harvey Clark,
George Abernethy,	Jason Lee,	W. H. Spaulding,
Wm. H. Willson,	Gustavus Hines,	J. L. Parrish,
L. H. Judson,	— Perkins,	H. W. Raymond.

I do not claim absolute accuracy for the lists of persons who were in Oregon prior to the emigration of 1843, as it is made up from the memory I retain of persons known to me nearly a third of a century ago. I am more or less acquainted with the history of those persons and the time of their arrival here, but to go into such details would swell this address to a volume.

Suffice it to say, they were the real Pioneers of Oregon, and among them were some of the noblest men, and I hope that an abler pen than mine will one day delineate their true merits. Some names may have escaped me; if so, I beg that those who have been unintentionally neglected will step forward and assert their rights.

In this connection I should say that some of the persons in this list are perhaps not designated by their Christian names. I have not had the opportunity to examine their baptismal record, and some names may be recorded which would astonish their sponsors.

I have, however, done the best that I could in the way of patronymics, and shall be pleased to be corrected where I have erred. I have given the names that the early Pioneers were then known by, and if I am guilty of mistakes it is the assumed duty, incumbent upon those who know better to "vindicate the truth of history."

While upon the subject of apologies, perhaps in the interest of absolute certainty, I should say that Uncle Dan Waldo with his party did not join us at the rendezvous, but overtook us on the Big Blue, and that Ransom Clark, John G. Campbell, — Chapman and Maj. Gilpin, though crossing the plains with Lieut. Fremont, they did not properly belong to our party; still, I have included them as they arrived in that year.

There were also at that time a few Roman Catholic missionaries in Oregon, but my knowledge of them was not sufficiently definite to undertake a correct list of their names.

This is also true of the settlers of Canadian birth who had formerly belonged to the Hudson Bay Company's service, but who had left it. I knew the most of

them, and can bear testimony to the fact that they were quiet, honest, industrious settlers and good citizens, who helped to develop the country and assisted in its defense in our Indian wars. My limited acquaintance with them would forbid my attempting a correct list of their names. Among them, however, I remember Chamberlane, Plamondon, Gervais and Luce, and many others who are entitled to share with us whatever credit is due to the Pioneers, as they endured the toils and privations of developing and defending the country, and I trust that some of their own number will file in our archives a correct list of their names. One of these Canadians (I think his name was DeLoar) lived near Champoeg, was one of Lewis and Clark's party that came to Oregon in 1804, and subsequently returned here in the Hudson Bay Company's service, and for many years enjoyed the appellation, "oldest inhabitant."

William Cannon, another very old man who resided near Champoeg and died a few years since, came to the country in the service of Astor, in Wilson G. Hunt's party, and resided here the remainder of his life. Washington Irving, in his Astoria, makes Cannon the hero of a ludicrous adventure with a bear, and I have heard the old man give his version of the affair wherein he figured in a tree, his position secure in its elevation, while bruin watched below.

Estimating the Catholic missions and the Canadians who had left the Hudson Bay Company's service in the country in the fall of 1843, at 50 persons, added to the other settlers and Protestant missionaries, would make the white male population 157; add to this those who crossed the plains that year and we have in that vast territory now comprised within the limits of the State of Oregon, Washington and Idaho Territories, approximating 424 male white persons above the age of 16, and in this communication you have their names. At that time there were no settlers between the Missouri border and the Cascade mountains, and no Americans north of the Columbia river. My old friend Mike Simmons, now deceased, is entitled to the honor of being the first American settler in that region, and no better man has ever inhabited it since. The settlements west of the Cascades were confined to the counties of Clatsop, Washington, (then known as Tualatin plains) Clackamas, Champoeg, (now Marion) and Yamhill. There were no settlers on the east side of the Willamette, south of Marion, and George Gay, living in the southern border of Yamhill county, was the most southern settler west of the river. Sutter's fort, now Sacramento city, at a distance of 600 miles south, was the nearest white settlement in any direction. Oregon City was then the principal town west of the Rocky mountains. It was located by Dr. John McLoughlin, then Governor of the Hudson Bay Company, on the east side of the river, and consisted of about half a dozen houses.

On the west side at the Falls, as it was all then called, was Linn City, more

commonly known as the Robin's Nest, owned by Robert Moor, Esq., and just below it, at the terminus of the present canal, was Multnomah City under the proprietorship of Hugh Burns, a shrewd Hibernian, and the principal blacksmith west of the Rocky mountains. Salem contained three houses, and no other towns were known.

The present site of Portland was a solitude surrounded with a dense forest of fir trees. Perhaps I ought to devote a paragraph to its early history.

With three comrades, I left the emigration on the Umatilla river, at a point near the present Indian Agency, and after a variety of adventures, which I may at some time narrate, we arrived in a canoe at Fort Vancouver on the evening of the 23d of October, 1843. We encamped on the bank of the river about where the government wharf now stands. The greater part of our slender means were expended in the purchase of provisions and hickory shirts, consigning those that had done such long and continuous service, with their inhabitants, to the Columbia. On the morning of the 24th, we started for what was known as the "Willamette" settlement at the Falls.

Dr. McLoughlin told us that at a distance of seven miles below the Fort, we would encounter the waters of the Willamette entering the Columbia from the south. At about the distance indicated by the Doctor, we reached what we supposed to be the mouth of the river and after paddling up it until noon, looked across, and to our astonishment discovered Fort Vancouver. It then flashed upon us that we had circumnavigated the island opposite the Fort. We retraced our way, and that evening discovered the mouth of the Willamette and encamped upon its banks. The next evening we encamped on the prairie opposite Portland upon what is now the town site of East Portland, owned by James Stephens, Esq.

In 1844, William Overton, a Tennesseean, located upon the present town site and engaged in making shingles, and set up a claim to the land, which was then like the other continuous wilderness lining the banks of the river. Overton sold his claim to Pettygrove and Lovejoy, who, in 1845, laid out some lots and called the place Portland, after the city of that name in Maine, from which State they had emigrated. Overton was a desperate, rollicking fellow, and sought his fortunes in the wilds of Texas, where, as I have heard, his career was brought to a sudden termination by a halter.

In 1843, the only settler on the river below the Falls, was an old English sailor by the name of William Johnson, who resided upon a claim about a mile above the present city of Portland. He was a fine specimen of the British tar, and had at an early day abandoned his allegiance to the British lion and taken service on the old frigate *Constitution*. I have frequently listened to his narra-

tive of the action between *Old Ironsides* and the *Guerriere*, on which occasion he served with the boarding party. He used to exhibit an ugly scar upon his head, made in that memorable action by a British cutlass, and attributed his escape from death, to the fact that he had a couple of pieces of hoop-iron crossed in his cap, which turned the cutlass and saved his life.

To narrate all the incidents which occurred in connection with the early settlement of the country would exceed what I have intended as a brief address, to an unreasonable limit. Suffice it to say that the immigration of 1843 arrived safely in the valley during the fall and early part of the winter, and found homes in the then settled neighborhoods. Dr. John McLoughlin, then at the head of the Hudson Bay Company, from his own private resources, rendered the new settlers much valuable aid by furnishing the destitute with food, clothing and seed, waiting for his pay until they had a suplus to dispose of. Dr. John McLoughlin was a public benefactor, and the time will come when the people of Oregon will do themselves credit by erecting a statue to his memory. Of foreign birth and lineage, he gave the strongest proof of his devotion to republican institutions, by becoming an American citizen, while all his personal interests were identified with the British government. Thus far, detraction and abuse have been his principal reward. There was at that time no money in the country, and all transactions were based upon barter or trade, and fortunate was the individual who could procure an "order" on the "Hudson Bay Company" for goods, which were then sold at remarkably reasonable rates considering all the surroundings. During the early period of the settlement of Oregon, there existed a wonderful equality among the population in point of wealth. Those who possessed a few cattle were considered the most fortunate; still the property was too equally divided and too scanty to admit of distinctions on the score of wealth. The means of transportation consisted of pack horses by land and canoes by water, with an occasional Hudson Bay batteax. I remember, as late as 1847, standing with some friends upon the banks of the Willamette, when we discussed the possibility of any of our number living to see its placid bosom disturbed by the wheels of a steamboat. At that time, the rude hospitality of the settlers was dispensed with a liberal hand. The traveler went forth with his own blanket and lass-rope, thus furnishing his own bed and security for the safety of his horse, while the cabin door of the settler always stood open to furnish him shelter and food, without money and without price. In the summer of 1846, my wife and self, entertained two British officers. I staked out their horses on the grass; they had their own blankets and slept on the floor of our palatial residence, which consisted of a pole cabin fourteen feet square, the interstices between the poles

"Stuffed with clay to keep the wind away,"

a puncheon floor and a mud chimney, and not a pane of glass or particle of sawed lumber about the institution. The furniture, consisting of such articles as I had manufactured from a fir tree with an ax and augur. We regaled our guests bountifully upon boiled wheat and jerked beef, without sugar, coffee or tea. A quarter of a century afterward I met one of these officers in Washington. He reminded me that he had once been my guest in Oregon. When that fact was recalled to my mind, I attempted an apology for the brevity of our bill of fare, but with characteristic politeness, he interrupted me with, "My dear sir! don't mention it. The fare was splendid and we enjoyed it hugely. You gave us the best you had, and the Prince of Wales could do no more."

As an illustration of the honest and simple directness which pervaded our legislative proceedings of that day, I will mention that in 1847, I had the honor of a seat in the Legislature of the Provisional Government; it was my first step upon the slippery rungs of the political ladder. The Legislature then consisted of but one house and we sat in the old Methodist church at the Falls. Close by the church, Barton Lee had constructed a "ten-pin alley" where some of my fellow members were in the habit of resorting to seek relaxation and *refreshment* from their Legislative toils. I had aspired to the Speakership and supposed myself sure of the position, but the same uncertainty in political matters existed then that I have seen so much of since. Some of my friends threw off on me and elected a better man, in the person of Dr. Robert Newell. God bless his old soul. In the small collection of books at the Falls known as the Multnomah Library, I found what I had never heard of before, a copy of "Jefferson's Manual," and after giving it an evening's perusal by the light of an armful of pitch knots, I found that there was such a thing in parliamentary usage as "the previous question."

I had a bill then pending to cut off the southern end of Yamhill, and to establish the county of Polk, which measure had violent opposition in the body. One morning while most of the opponents of my bill were amusing themselves at "horse billiards" in Lee's ten-pin alley, I called up my bill, and, after making the best argument I could in its favor, I concluded with: "And now, Mr. Speaker, upon this bill I move the previous question." Newell looked confused, and I was satisfied that he had no conception of what I meant; but he rallied, and, looking wise and severe (I have since seen presiding officers in Washington do the same thing), said: "Sit down, sir! Resume your seat! Do you intend to trifle with the Chair! when you know that we passed the previous question two weeks ago? *It was the first thing we done!*" I got a vote, however, before the return of the "horse billiard" players, and Polk country has a legal existence

to-day, notwithstanding the adverse ruling upon a question of parliamentary usage.

Genial, kind-hearted Newell! How many of you recollect his good qualities and how heartily have you laughed around the camp fire at his favorite song, "Love and Sassingers." I can yet hear the lugubrious refrain describing how his dulcena was captured by the butcher's boy.

"And there sat faithless she
A frying sassingers for he."

He has folded his robe about him and lain himself down to rest, among the mountains he loved so well, and which have so often echoed the merry tones of his voice.

In these primitive days, we had but few of the vices of civilization. Intemperance in strong drink was unknown, and there was comparatively no litigation. Lawyers and doctors had to till the soil like honest men to procure their daily bread. Every neighborhood had a rough log school-house in which "stated preaching" was dispensed on Sunday by divines who had cultivated their fields during the week, and who did not "sit upon the ragged edge of despair" and were not troubled with visions of "a moral Niagara," or "sections of the day of judgment." Every neighborhood had also its violinists, who furnished music for the innocent and rational devotees of Terpsichore, who, clad in buckskin, tripped the light fantistic toe in moccasins on puncheon floors. In fact, the young people whiled away much of the long dreary winter in that sort of amusement.

"We danced all night till broad daylight,
And went home with the gals in the morning."

As a result of such social intercourse, there was often a union of two "half sections," to one of which each of the dancers was entitled when they concluded to waltz together through life.

In the Eastern States, I have often been asked how long it was after Fremont discovered Oregon that I emigrated there. It is true that in the year 1843, Fremont, then a Lieutenant in the Engineer Corps, did cross the plains, and brought his party to the Dalles, and visited Vancouver to procure supplies. I saw him on the plains, though he reached the Dalles in the rear of our emigration. His outfit contained all of the conveniences and luxuries that a Government appropriation could procure, while he "roughed it" in a covered carriage, surrounded by servants paid from the public purse. He returned to the States and was afterward rewarded with a Presidential nomination as the "Pathfinder." The path he found was made by the hardy frontiersmen who preceded him to

the Pacific, and who stood by their rifles here and held the country against hostile Indians and British threats, without Government aid or recognition until 1849, when the first Government troops came to our relief. Yet Fremont, with many people, has the credit of "finding" everything west of the Rocky mountains, and I suppose his pretensions will be recognized by the future historian, while the deserving men who made the path, unaided by Government, will be forgotten. "And such is history."

A rude prosperity, contentment and happiness pervaded our society, and while our posterity may be more refined, cultivated and wealthy, I doubt if they will be any better, more contented, virtuous or happier, than their rude Pioneer ancestors.

Mr. President and Pioneers, I am not here to draw inviduous distinctions or depreciate any one man's merits by referring to those of another; but I feel it is an occasion when I might pay a slight tribute to an early Pioneer (who, I am sorry to say, is absent, and has left our State), without partiality, as we have always been political opponents. If at this time, after the lapse of nearly a third of a century, I were called upon to designate the man of the immigration of 1843, or any other immigration, who had made the most personal sacrifices for the benefit of our common State and had received the least reward, I should mention the name that deservedly heads the roll of 1843,

"UNCLE" JESSE APPLEGATE.

I traveled in his company across the plains, lived neighbor to him for years, and have had many controversies with him, in which, I regret to say, I did not always come out of the contest unscathed.

He was at the rendezvous at Fitzhugh's Mill on the 17th day of May, 1843, and more by his silence than by what he said, gave character to our proceedings. No man did more upon the route to aid the destitute and encourage the weak. He divided his rations with the same reckless liberality with which he signed the bonds of those who have victimized him and reduced him to poverty in his old age.

He was one of the first settlers in Polk county, as he has been in Umpqua, and now is in Northern California. He presents the singular anomaly of a gentleman of the highest culture who shrinks from contact with society. In his presence all feel the power of his genius, while he has not the volubility to utter a dozen consecutive words; but give him pen, ink and paper, and there is scarcely a subject upon which he cannot shed a flood of light.

He was the leader in forming our Provisional Government in 1845, as he was

of the party of 1846 that escorted the first immigration by the Southern route—an unselfish service in which he periled his life to ruin himself pecuniarily. The services and reputation of Jesse Applegate are the common property of the Oregon Pioneers. "Such a man might be a copy to these younger times." In the language of the great poet—

> "This was the noblest Roman of them all.
> His life was gentle: and the elements
> So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
> And say to all the world, This was a man."

As a frontiersman in courage, sagacity and natural intelligence, he is the equal of Daniel Boone. In culture and experience, he is the superior of half the living statesmen of our land. As a generous, kindhearted neighbor, he has no superior anywhere. In politics, he is a cross between the old-fashioned, honest notions of Hamilton and Jefferson. In religion, while he broke none of the commandments, separately or intentionally; still, like Moses, if a proper provocation occurred, he would be likely to throw down the tablets, and while extemporizing awkward profanity, might break them *en masse*. He was too impracticable to be a party leader, and too independent to be the recipient of political favors. The future historian will do justice to the merits, the ability and the sacrifices of the "Sage of Yoncalla."

Mr. President and Pioneers, the time rapidly approaches when we, the first settlers of Oregon, must go hence and leave to our posterity the fruits of our toils and our labors, and I feel this to be an occasion when, if animosities or unkindness have existed among us, they ought to be buried out of sight and forgotten. Let us at least leave to those who are to come after us a heritage of charity, kindness and good feeling, and let us hope that our descendants may prove themselves an honest, patriotic race of men and women, worthy to inherit the goodly land we spied out for them, and in your and their pursuit of all that is great and good,

> "In ploughman's phrase, 'God send you speed'
> Still daily to grow wiser,
> And may you better reck the rede
> Than ever did th' adviser."

ADDRESS.

BY HON. GEORGE P. HOLMAN.

Mr. President, Pioneers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

By referring to the Register of our Association, I find recorded, Jas. W. Nesmith, born in Maine, 1820; arrived in Oregon, 1843. Geo. P. Holman, born in Salem, Oregon, Feb. 6, 1842, arrived in the State about the same day. Thus you will perceive that I came not by the "Horn around" or the "plains across," yet the date of my arrival in the State is some time previous to that of the honorable gentleman who has so ably addressed you, and places me upon the record as a genuine, indigenous Webfooter.

By request of your committee, I will say a few words in behalf of that portion of our population born within the State of Oregon, prior to January 1st, 1853, recognized as native Pioneers.

Representing, then, this particular branch of our Association, it is with emotions of pride, that we have assembled with you, honored Pioneers, to celebrate another anniversary of our re-union; and, as we look over this assembly and find here and there, those whom we have known for years, we can not forget the scenes and incidents of their earlier life. In the history of these brave men and noble women, our fathers and our mothers, we recognize that spirit of enterprise and advancement, both moral, social and intellectual, so universally characteristic of our Pioneers.

Only a few years ago, and the country extending along the shores of the Atlantic, touching the lakes on the north and the Alleghanies on the west, embraced the original States of this Republic. To-day, how different the picture! How grand! how glorious the change! Not only have new States started into life, between the Alleghanies and the Father of Waters, founding beautiful and wealthy cities, burdening the rivers with commerce, stretching the iron track and telegraph, and opening classic halls and consecrated temples throughout all this domain, but the government has carried the chain of Union, not only over this region but beyond the Mississippi, and still on beyond the Rocky Mountains, and finally linked it to the rocks which roll back the waves of the Pacific.

The American Pioneer has ever been the chief actor in this drama of unparalleled national progress. "Westward the course of empire takes its way," but westward no further. The progress of population, improvement and civilization, stretching from mountain to plain, and from plain to the western ocean, had reached our own beautiful valley of the Willamette, and here amid toils and suffering, privations and defeat, the Pioneer of Oregon, laid the foundation of a commonwealth, destined to become the chief of our Empire on the Pacific.

Animated by a strong love of country, and a veneration for the institutions of their fathers, possessed of consummate moral courage, imbued with indomitable energy and trusting to the protection of Heaven, they began to build upon this foundation, soon reared the superstructure of a State Government, and lit up the land with the lights of liberty, religion and science; lights which to-day are illuminating the most distant portions of this continent.

Those who have come among us of late years, may not regard the progress of our State towards internal development and commercial enterprise, as marked in any particular degree. It is the old Oregon Pioneer who can fully understand, who can fully comprehend this change. Well do I remember when only two dwellings graced the Capital of our State, and the voyager was carried over the waters of the Willamette and the Columbia, in the rude canoe, with the red man as driving power and pilot combined. To-day how different! No longer can the author of Thanatopsis sing,

> "Or lose thyself in the continuous woods,
> Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound
> Save his own dashings."

Other sounds now reverberate along the banks of that noble river, as upon its broad, deep waters, are borne the intelligence and the commerce of the nations.

While we rejoice over the present proud position of our young State, we witness on every hand the evidences of still greater prosperity. Our healthful skies, our fertile vallies, our wonderful mines of mineral wealth, our majestic forests, our noble rivers, our commerce, our manufacturers, our busy population, already here, all these assure us that a region enjoying such a profusion of Nature's gifts, will soon be densely populated by industrious citizens, who guided by enterprise and science, will build up a rich and powerful State, to augment the nations' strength, and to adorn its culture.

As we gather amid these scenes of festivity and song, let us not forget to pay tribute to the memory of those honored Pioneers who are not among us to-day. A thousand hallowed associations throng the mind, as we witness on every hand the results of their patient, heroic, Christian lives. But alas! They have gone

and gone in triumph; and though no splendid monument towers above the spot where rests their ashes, yet, their memory shall live in the hearts of their descendants, as long as one shall remain to recount their deeds of goodness and virtue.

Native Pioneers, assembled as we are with these noble veterans who still linger on the shore of time, how befitting that we pledge ourselves to guard with a jealous care the sacred heritage of our fathers and protect the fair name of the land of our birth. Let us maintain all the organized institutions of an enlightened people, institutions of law, education, benevolence, religion and all the adornments of the highest civilization and then shall our native State of Oregon, not only contribute to the power and grandeur of this Republic, but like ascending sun, rising still higher, shed its glorious influence backward upon the States of Europe and forward upon the Empires of Asia.

FIRST ANNUAL ADDRESS.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE OREGON PIONEER ASSOCIATION.

BY EX-GOV. GEORGE L. CURRY.

AT BUTTEVILLE, MARION COUNTY, OREGON, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, NOVEMBER 11TH, 1873.

MR. PRESIDENT, AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

When, a short time since, I received the invitation of your committee to present and address you on this occasion—the first re-union of the Pioneers of Oregon—I felt that I should be greatly gratified to be able to do so, and I answered, that I would if I could, for I was then closely engaged in the discharge of a public duty. That engagement has been concluded, and I am glad to report myself here to-day, among the Pioneers, to take with them a brief review of the circumstances attending the first formation of civil Society and civil government in Oregon.

Spain, through the courage and perseverance of Columbus, discovered the Indies of the West. Here was a Pioneer of the sea, greater than the old Viking of the Norsemen, because he was able to establish the proof of his discovery, and that discovery was for the benefit of his race. It was a great event. It occasioned and shaped other great events of the first consequence in the progress of humanity. Men turned with gladness to the bright prospect, and inhaled the inspiration of the new world. A wide and new field was opened for the accomplishment of many grand and noble undertakings. The spirit of adventure seized the opportunity. Bold and unscrupulous men like Cortez and Pizarro, first planted Christian civilization on the shores of a new hemisphere and made their names odious by their cruelties and crimes. For nearly 300 years Spain was a great nation; part of that time in the lead of nations, for her maratime discoveries and conquests by sea and land, were the most brilliant and important that the world had ever known. The most formidable power in Europe, her influence was felt throughout the entire continent, and her authority acknowledged and obeyed in the very centre of its dominions. She successfully colonized South

and part of North America from ocean to ocean. Her early navigators explored the entire western coast line from Cape Horn to the Russian possessions, giving names to the principal rivers, bays and headlands. The mutations of time have left her now only the memory of that splendid past to console her under the vicissitudes of bitter fortune.

Just three hundred years, within five months, after the discovery made by Columbus, a ship bearing the flag of a new nation, which his grand achievement had brought into existence, sailing upon the Pacific ocean, entered the mouth of a large and unknown river, which was named after the vessel, and is now known as our own magnificent Columbia. Subsequent explorations proved the country to contain magnificent forests of fine timber, and beautiful valleys of fertile land. It obtained the name Oregon, through the appellation *Oregana* given to the country north of California, from the circumstance of the prolific growth of a plant or shrub, perhaps the "*Artemesia*," which the Spanish navigator likened to wild *Marjoram*, the meaning of the word "*Oregana*." I know of nothing to sustain the beautiful idea, that the word "Oregon" is derived from Indian tradition, signifying the land nearest the setting sun, or the most western land.

The first settlement was made by American traders at Oak Point, on the Columbia river, where Capt. Smith of the ship *Albatross*, of Boston, in the spring of 1810, cleared, fenced and cultivated a piece of land, but the annual freshet of the river submerged his improvements aud caused him to abandon the place.

On the night of the 26th of March, of the year following, 1811, the ship *Tonquin*, the pioneer ship of the Pacific Fur Company, as John Jacob Astor's enterprise was called, crossed the bar of the Columbia river, under circumstances of great danger, involving loss of life, and anchored in Baker's Bay. This bay was named after the Captain of the vessel which first used that anchorage. Point George was selected as a site of the settlement, and called Astoria, which is now the flourishing town of that name. On the 12th of April, the work was commenced, and in due time the requisite buildings were erected and protected by a stockade. Expeditions were fitted out and sent up the river; one as far as the Spokane country, where a trading post was established, another up the Willamette river, where in 1812, Mr. Halsey built a trading establishment in the vicinity of the present town site of Halsey, so called in compliment to the Vice President of the Oregon and California Railroad Company. Here is a remarkable coincidence, and the question might well suggest itself which of the Halseys' is the better entitled to the honor of having the place named after him. The presence of the first white man, and he an American on the Calapooiah Prairie, was a circumstance of great interest and importance, and the whistle of

the first locomotive was an event of equal grandeur and significance. The first gave the promise of the advent of a new order of things, while the other redeems the pledge with the assurance of beneficial influences and continual prosperity.

The war with England, and other unpropitious circumstances, so discouraged the operations of the Pacific Fur Company as to cause its interests to pass into other and foreign hands, and ultimately into those of the Hudson's Bay Company —an incorporation of British subjects for the same business.

The first recognition on the part of Congress of such a country as Oregon, occurred in 1825, in the introduction of a bill, by Mr. Floyd of Virginia, in the House of Representatives, "authorizing the occupation of the Oregon river," providing for the maintenance of a military establishment, the collection of the customs and the donation of lands to settlers. With the last provision stricken out, it passed that body. On the 26th of February, during the same session, Mr Mahlon Dickerson of New Jersey, assailed the measure in a sarcastic speech in the Senate, to which I must briefly allude, for subsequent events and our present situation and prosperity, have played the mischief with the logic and wit of this amusing Senatorial effort. Mr. Dickerson said: "But is this Territory of Oregon ever to become a State? Never!" He alluded to the great distance it was from the seat of the Federal Government, fixing it at 4,650 miles. "The distance therefore," said he, "that a member of Congress of this State of Oregon will be obliged to travel in coming to the seat of government and returning, would be 9,300 miles. This at the rate of $8 for every 20 miles, would make his travelling expenses amount to $3,720. Every member of Congress ought to see his constituents once a year. This is already very difficult for those in the most remote parts of the Union. At the rate which members of Congress travel according to law, that is 20 miles per day, it would require to come to the seat of government and return, 465 days. But if he should travel at the rate of 30 miles a day, it would require 306 days. Allowing for Sundays, 44 days, it would require 350 days. This would allow the member a fortnight to rest himself at Washington, before commencing his journey home. This rate of traveling would be a hard duty, as a greater part of the way is exceedingly bad, and a portion of it over rugged mountains, where Lewis and Clark found several feet of snow the latter part of June. Yet, a young, able bodied Senator, might travel from Oregon to Washington and back once a year, but he could do nothing else. It would be more expeditious, however, to come by water round Cape Horn, or through Behring's Straits, round the north coast of the continent to Baffin's Bay, through Davis Straits to the Atlantic ocean, and so on to Washington. It is true this passage is not yet discovered except upon the maps, but it will be as soon as Oregon will be a State." Alas for all human expectations! Oregon *is* a State and there is no North-west passage yet. Time and distance are well nigh

annihilated by steam travel and the telegraph, and but one-fourth part of the time-table of Mr. Dickerson is now required to make the trip around the world. The merciless Senator drove the last nail in the coffin, which he was making for the measure, by the following "clincher:" "As to the Oregon Territory, it can never be of any pecuniary advantage to the United States."

Senator Benton, always the friend of Oregon, remarked in reply: "It is a country too great and too desirable to remain longer without civilized inhabitants. In extent, soil and climate, it is superior to the old thirteen United States." Still the Senate must have been convinced by the argument of Senator Dickerson, for it refused to pass the bill.

Other ineffectual attempts at legislation occurred, and in the meantime, the people themselves took the matter in hand. The Pioneers came and established communities, churches, schools and a government, and prosperous industries. These, our adventurous fellow citizens, did more to preserve all this great Northwestern section to the United States, than all the skillful diplomates and astute statesmen. The stamp of the American character was placed upon the country and its institutions, in the management of public affairs, in its churches, schools and the business of every day life. It may appear strange that a handful of Americans in Oregon, at that early day, should have so acted as to have impressed events then in the womb of the future. New countries develope character. Man cannot be a hypocrite in performing the duties of pioneer life. Whatever there is in him, whether good, bad or indifferent, must come out. It is a life of action, incessant action. Men are called upon to think quickly. Often there is little intervening time between conception and performance. Men are known by what they do, rather than by what they say. Practice is always so much better than theory. In the wilderness, men cannot afford to be otherwise than true to nature. This life of independence, affixes manhood to the humblest individual, for it educates him as to a knowledge of himself, and inspires him to depend solely upon his own exertions for his ultimate success. This induces industry and energy of purpose. Such men never give up—never say they "cannot,"—they are confident in all they undertake. The idea of failure is never contemplated. Their determination never flags, the greater the difficulties, the more they are resolved to overcome them. They take hold of a work to do it—not to do at it. Thus we find them pressing into new and unexplored tracts of country, with a hardihood and resolution to be admired and commended—planting civilization everywhere. Here is a type of that character which has made the Pacific side of our continent all that it is; that same unconquerable, enterprising spirit which will yet make it the worthy rival of the Atlantic sea-board. Alas, that so many of those indefatigable spirits should have been

compelled to sacrifice their lives in order to advance the success of the great work before them. Their whitened bones, where the wolves have scattered them, are there to this day in the desert and the mountain land, as melancholy evidence of the enterprise and courage of the American Pioneer.

The first permanent American settlers in Oregon, were trappers or mountain-men, so called from their occupation. Of these, Mr. Sol. Smith, who came in 1832, and is still living in Clatsop county, is our oldest American Pioneer. Jas. A. O'Neil, Thomas Hubbard and others, came with Capt. Wyeth of Boston, in 1834. The brothers Lee, and others of the Methodist Mission, came also the same year. The Rev. Dr. Whitman and Rev. H. H. Spaulding, with their wives, and Mr. Wm. H. Gray, of the "American Board of Foreign Missions," arrived in 1836. Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Spaulding were the first white women who crossed the Rocky Mountains. Their children were the first American children born in Oregon.

In 1840, there were only about 250 white people in the country, of which number, 140 were Americans.

An attempt was made in 1841, to form a government without an executive, making a Supreme Judge the highest functionary, with the laws of the State of New York as the law of the land. Rev. Dr. Babcock of the Methodist Mission, was elected to that position. The movement, however, does not appear to have been popular, and a copy of the New York Statutes not being convenient perhaps, the undertaking proved abortive.

On the 4th of March, 1843, a meeting of the settlers of the Willamette valley was held for the purpose of determining upon some method to protect their stock from the attacks of wild animals. This gathering not inappropriately has been denominated the "Wolf Scalp Meeting," and has become noted from the fact that the first successful measures were there inaugurated for the establishment of a government. In 1846, I saw the original record of the proceedings on that occasion. One side of a half sheet of foolscap contained the minutes of the Wolf Scalp Meeting, and the other, the graver doings of the more important undertaking. A committee of twelve were appointed to report a plan of government, who did their duty exceedingly well, and on the 4th of July following, announced in mass meeting the first system of polity for the North Pacific coast. It placed the executive power in three persons, the law making power in a committee composed of twelve members, and the judiciary power in a Supreme Judge, with Justices of the Peace in various districts. The first two branches of authority were modestly styled "Executive Committee" and "Legislative Committee."

W. H. Gray, now of Astoria, was a leading spirit throughout the whole affair, and doubtless contributed much towards its success. This civil authority was to control a mixed population composed of Americans, English, Scotch, Canadians and half-breed Indians. At that time, there were three religious denominations represented by missionaries, Methodist, Presbyterian and Catholic, and there were manifestations of an active anti-mission party. The first Executive Committee consisted of one member of the Methodist Mission, Alanson Beers, and two farmers, David Hill and Joseph Gale.

Two years after, in 1845, this frame work was so perfected as to assume the dignity of a constitutional government, with the executive power lodged in a Governor with the right of veto, and the legislative functions in a House of Representatives. This form of government existed until March 3d, 1849, when the jurisdiction of the United Satates was extended by virtue of the Act of Congress organizing the Territorial Government of Oregon. The general acceptance, if not the entire approval by our people of the Provisional Government, made it strong, and enforced its authority. Under it, life and property were protected, contracts maintained, and the people were prosperous and happy. Coined money being scarce, wheat was made a legal tender in the payment of all demands. War was vigorously and successfully prosecuted. In the winter of 1847 and '48, over 300 men were kept in the field beyond the Cascade mountains, in offensive operations against the Cayuse Indians. In thirteen days from the receipt of the information at the seat of government, Oregon City, of the massacre of the missionaries and immigrants at Wa-il-at-pu, a force of fifty armed men were in possession of the Mission station at The Dalles of the Columbia river, having marched a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. There were no steam facilities for travel and transportation in those days and the march was made in the inclement month of December. As fast as the companies could be equipped, they moved to the front by the old pack trail up the Columbia. The two fights at the canyon of the Des Chutes, in which the enemy were driven each time with loss, occurred on the last two days of February. The battle of Umatilla, where the enemy were again repulsed with serious loss, was fought on the 2nd of March. On the 4th, the advance of the column occupied Wa-il-at-pu, Whitman's Mission, now Walla Walla, three hundred miles away from the seat of government, and almost the same distance from any settlement of note. All this was a display of energy and power which would be regarded as remarkable in the operations of any government; but in one so new and inexperienced as that of the Pioneers of Oregon, it must be proof eminently satisfactory as to the ability and efficiency of it, that it was not one only in name, but a government founded in the esteem and sustained by the will and majesty of the people. The

highest compliment has been paid to the integrity and patriotism of those Amer icans who really created and administered this early organization, in the simpl circumstance that the greater part of those of foreign birth, who shared wit them the fortunes of that govenment, as soon as an opportunity was afforded then became citizens of the United States. It is indicative of the good faith an honest dealing which had characterized the association.

In 1846, when I arrived in the country, I found an intelligent, virtuous an industrious community, actuated by the purest motives, and the highest sense o duty. There was an intense anxiety—made keener by suspense and the defer ment of hope—for the time to come, when the jurisdiction of the Union woul be extended over them, and they could realize that, though far off, they wer still at home, and beneath the protection of the glorious banner of our country At that time Oregon comprised six counties, north of the Columbia river th two counties of Lewis and Vancouver; south of it Clackamas, Tuality, Yamhil and Champoeg, now Marion.

To the Oregon Pioneers belongs the honor of having established the first news paper press on the Pacific coast, at Oregon City, in February, 1846. The pape was called the *Oregon Spectator*, and was issued semi-monthly. The *Oregon Free Press*, the first weekly news sheet on this side of the continent, was also published at that place in March, 1848, from a press made in the country, and with display type wrought out of wood.

The first coinage of gold on this coast took place at Oregon City in the spring of 1849. Our people returning from the gold mines in California, could get but eleven dollars per ounce for their gold dust in trade, when it was worth from sixteen to eighteen dollars cash. To remedy this, the Legislature in the winter of 1848–9, passed an act authorizing "The assaying, melting and coining of gold," but the advent of the new order of things under the Federal Government, precluded the carrying out of the law. Private enterprise however, within a short time after, issued what has since been called the "Beaver" coin, five and ten dollar gold pieces, with the impression of the beaver on one side, over which appeared the innitial letters of the names of the company, Kilborn, Magruder, Taylor, Abernethy, Wilson, Rector, Campbell, Smith; underneath, "O. T. 1849." On the reverse, was "Oregon Exchange Company, 130 grains Native Gold, 5 D." The only alteration on the faces of the $10 pieces was, "10 pdwts 20 grains, Ten D." The dies for this coinage were made by Hamilton Campbell, since dead; the press and rolling mill were made by Wm. H. Rector, now removed to California. The intrinsic worth of these gold pieces was some eight per cent. more than their representative value, and therefore they were readily interchanged and soon passed from general circulation.

In concluding this brief and desultory address let us hope that the coming generations, who are to build up the State of Oregon to a scale competing with the grandeur and power of other States, will the more and more appreciate the work of the Pioneers, as in the performance of that duty, glimpses after glimpses of the grand future are disclosed.

No doubt a high regard will be cherished for them when they shall have passed away, to live again in the grateful stories of the thrilling incidents of frontier and wilderness life. Few deeds will be found within the period of that pioneer rule which any one will care to have disclaimed, or which will cause the least reproach. The Oregon Pioneers were a class of men possessing the superior virtues which make a superior manhood. Already they have been distinguished by the higher honors—in the pulpit, on the bench, at the bar, as Governors, as Congressmen, as Senators. They did their work unostentatiously, but did it well, in leaving a broad and substantial foundation, at least for the more complete and perfect work of those who were to come after them.

The world with laurel garlands
  Victorious warriors crown,
And life-like forms in marble,
  Proclaim their high renown;
On crimsoned fields of carnage,
  Where desperate deeds are done,
Where brother strikes a brother down,
That he may wear the victor's crown,
  That kind of fame is won.

But, Peace in her achievements,
  No pain, or ill, imparts;
How grand her scope of usefulness,
  Her wonder-work of arts!
Our hopes, our lives—the homes of earth—
All that makes life of any worth
  To her are consecrate,
Which once destroyed in war's wild wrath,
  War cannot re-create.

Her rule developes manhood,
  And makes a people great
In that which tends to human good,
In all that links a brotherhood,
  And glorifies the State.

For those beneath her banner,
  Who wrought our pleasant ways,
Who toiled and suffered to the end,
That man might be his own best friend,
  Be honor and all praise.
Is there no song of triumph?
  No word of lofty cheer?
Now that the Wilderness is ours,
  For the brave Pioneer?

What was there so enticing,
  That charmed him to his fate?
Was he to win a hero's name?
To fill the world with loud acclaim?
  And rank among the great?
There was no sound of greeting,
  In deserts where he trod;
With a stout heart to do and dare,
Hardships and perils were his share,
  Far off—alone with God!

On! for the good of others,
  That end for all atones;
To fell the forest, make the home—
To mark the path for them to come,
  If need be with his bones.
On dreary wastes, in mountain pass,
  Mournful mementoes tell
Of sudden strait—of desperate strife--
Where fiercely fighting for his life,
  A brave man bravely fell.

At length he wins high guerdon!
  His star of fortune shines!
The mountains ope' their flinty pores,
Nature reveals her precious stores—
  The gold and silver mines;
The world is in a tumult!
  It rushes for the prize!
A miracle is wrought--how grand!
As if by magic through the land,
  See towns and traffic rise!

As the farmer tills his broad lands,
  And gathers in his grain;
As the voices of the homestead
  Swell in a happy strain;
As sunset gives it grandeur,
  And herds come home to rest;
As round the hearth-stone each loved form
Brings wealth of an affection warm,
  The Pioneer is blest.

The noise of busy labor
With music fills the air,
And makes the song of triumph
That echoes every where;
While art designs the honors
Which thriving thrift uprears,
From the mountains to the sea-side,
For the brave Pioneers.

CAPTAIN LEVEN N. ENGLISH.

BORN 1792. DIED 1876.

Leven Nelson English was born near Baltimore, Maryland, March 25, 1792. When quite young, his parents moved to the then Territory of Kentucky, where he resided for several years and married. When the war with England was declared, (1812), he volunteered and was in several of the heaviest battles on the frontiers of the United States and the Canadas. After the declaration of peace, he immigrated with his family to MaCoupin's county, Illinois, where he earnestly set himself to work to make a home in the great wilderness, but these operations were temporarily suspended by the commencement of the Indian troubles which finally culminated in the Black Hawk war. At the breaking out of the war, he raised and was elected Captain of a volunteer company, and was so commissioned by Governor Reynolds.

In 1836 he again determined to push further West, and moved to the Territory of Iowa, where he settled and erected a mill and identified himself with the progress of that young and rising population.

In 1845, he again pulled "up stakes" and started for Oregon, and settled in the Willamette valley near and east of Salem, after a toilsome trip across the plains, losing one of his sons by death during the trip. Capt. English built the next year, what was once widely known as English's mills, which contributed very materially to the better class of dwelling houses in Salem and the surrounding country.

When the Cayuse war broke out, Capt. English and several of his sons responded to the call for volunteer with alacrity, thus filling his place creditably in three different wars. In 1869, he moved with his family to California, but not liking the climate, he returned and settled in Salem, in 1871, where he resided the remainder of his life.

Captain English was married twice; with his first wife he lived 39 years up to 1851, when she died, and being the mother of twelve children. By his second wife he had seven, making a total of nineteen children.

Capt. English died March 5, 1875, lacking twenty days of being 85 years old. His death occured after the publication of the title page of this publication, or it would have appropriately appeared therein.

COL. JOSEPH L. MEEK.

1810--1875.

AGE 65.

CAPT. L. N. ENGLISH.

1792--1876.

AGE 84.

COL. JOSEPH L. MEEK.

BORN 1810. DIED 1875.

BY MRS. F. F. VICTOR.

Joseph L. Meek was born in Washington county, Virginia. He was the son of a planter, and his mother was of a good Virginia family—one of the Walker's—and aunt to the wife of President Polk. But unfortunately for her son, this lady died early, and young Joseph was left very much to his own devices, on a plantation where there was nothing for him to do, and little to learn, except such out-door sports as boys delight in. These he enjoyed in the most unrestrained liberty, having for his companions only the children of his father's slaves, towards whom he stood in the relation of master.

Such circumstances would be inimical to habits of mental industry in any case; and the lad found his temptations to a busy idleness so many and strong, that he refused even to avail himself of the little elementary teaching that he might have had on the plantation. His stepmother, for whom he seems to have felt a dislike, either did not, or could not influence him in the direction of study; and it fell out that when he arrived at the age of sixteen years, he was a tall, merry, active boy, who knew hardly as much of spelling and reading as is contained in the child's first primer. Why it was that his father neglected him in so culpable a manner does not appear; but what is evident is, that young Meek was not happy at home, and that his not being so was the cause of his abandoning the plantation when between sixteen and seventeen years of age, and undertaking to enter upon a career for himself. This he did by going to Kentucky, where some relations of his father resided; and, on finding things not to his mind in the new place, finally pushing on to St. Louis, then a mere trading-post on the Missouri frontier, where he arrived in the fall of 1828.

This was the decisive step that colored all his after life. St. Louis was the rendezvous of fur traders, who yearly enlisted new men for service in trapping beaver in the Rocky Mountains. Young Meek offered himself, and though

younger than the other recruits, was accepted, on his assurance that he would not shrink from duty, even if that duty should be to fight Indians. The spring of 1829 accordingly found him in the employ of Mr. William Sublette, one of the most enterprising and successful of the fur traders, who annually led a company of men to the mountains, and through them, from summer to winter rendezvous; leaving them the following spring to go to St. Louis for the necessary Indian goods and fresh recruits.

Little did the boy of eighteen realize the fateful step he was taking; that for eleven years he should roam the mountains and plains like an Indian, carrying his life in his hand at every step; that he should marry an Indian woman; and leave a family of half-Indian children in the valley of that far off Oregon, of which then he had hardly ever heard the name. But a man once entered into the service of the fur companies found it nearly impossible to abandon the service, unless he had shown himself cowardly and unfit—in which case he was permitted to return when the trading partner went to St. Louis for goods. A brave and active man was sure to be kept in the Company's debt, or in some other way in its power; so that no opportunity should be afforded of leaving the life he had entered upon however thoughtlessly. Letters were even forbidden to be written or received; lest hearing from home should produce homesickness and disaffection. The service was so full of dangers, that it was estimated fully one-fifth if not one-fourth of the trappers were killed by the Indians, or died by accident and exposure each year.

Yet, with all these chances against him, Meek lived eleven years in the mountains, fighting Indians and wild beasts, with never in all that time a serious wound from Indian arrow or paw of grizzly bear; a fact that illustrates better than any words, the address, quickness and courage of the man. Though often sportively alluding to his own subterfuges to escape from danger, it still remained evident that an awkward, slow or cowardly man could never have resorted to such means. An unusually fine physic, a sunny temper and ready wit, made him a favorite with both comrades and employers, and gave him influence with such Indian tribes as the mountain-men held in friendly relations.

There are certain seasons of the year when either the beaver cannot be taken on account of cold, or when its fur is worth little on account of hot weather. At these seasons, the men had their semi-annual rendezvous—that of winter season being the longest—all of the men going into camp in some part of the country where they could best subsist themselves and their horses. During some of these winter vacations, Meek applied himself to acquiring some knowledge of reading; and as the only authors carried about with the Company's goods, were of the very best—the Bible, Shakespeare, and the standard poets—the effect

was to store a mind otherwise empty of learning with some of the finest literature in the English language.

Besides this advantage, Meek had for companions men who had in their youth been educated for a very different life from that they were leading, but who, for one cause and another, had become embittered against society and voluntarily exiled themselves. Others, from a love of adventure had come to the mountains. Only a small proportion were really illiterate men. Besides his companions in camp, Meek quite often was brought into contact with the traveling parties of English noblemen, or of painters and natualists, who attached themselves for greater safety to the caravan of the fur companies. In this way he was enabled to pick up a fund of miscellaneous knowledge that went far to cover the deficiency of his early education.

About 1839, the beaver had become so scarce from being so long and steadily hunted by the several companies, that it was thought best to disband them. Here was a new phase of the life into which Meek had so thoughtlessly been drawn. At twenty-nine, in the very flush of young manhood, to be deserted in the mountains by his employers, was something he had not foreseen. To return to Virginia with an Indian wife and children, was not to be thought of, even if it were possible, as it was not. To remain in the mountains, except by relinquishing forever all thoughts of civilized associations, was equally impossible.

At this juncture, Meek, with several more mountain-men, determined to cast their lot with that of the almost unknown Oregon, then virtually in possession of the Hudson Bay Company; and in 1840, did remove with their families to the Wallamet valley, where at that time very few Americans were living except those connected with the Methodist Mission—few indeed, in all.

In the winter of 1840, Meek selected a land claim in the Tualatin Plains, where he began to farm, the same he afterwards lived upon and where he died, in June, 1875.

From the time that he came to Oregon, until Oregon became a State, Meek was always more or less actively concerned in her affairs. Well acquainted with Indian character, he was useful in maintaining peace with the native tribes. A staunch American, he resisted the encroachments of British authority during the period of joint occupancy of the country. When it was at last thought best to move for the organization of a Provisional Government, he was conspicuously active in calling for an expression of sentiment, heading the American column in his own person. Being made Sheriff under the new government, he performed his duties, not always light ones, with promptitude and spirit. He was twice elected Assemblyman from Washington county, performing his duties with propriety and patri-

otism, dashed sometimes with the wild humor for which, whether as a mountaineer or a legislator, he was celebrated.

When the massacre of the missionaries and emigrants at Wailatpu, startled all Oregon in 1847, he accepted the toilsome and dangerous duty of messenger to Congress; having to perform the journey overland in the depth of winter, with only two companions, one of whom gave out upon the way. He arrived after much hardship, on the Missouri frontier early in March, without money or decent habiliments, and by his address won his way wherever he appeared until he presented himself, a forlorn messenger indeed, at the door of the White House. During all his subsequent life, he delighted to recall the sensation he was able to produce on being presented to President Polk. No other man in the United States would have thought of standing so entirely on the merits of his cause; or of making his wretchedness a subject of such self-railery as to divert attention from its pitifulness and make it seem only a very good jest. Such was the temperament of the man, that when he chose to be merry—and at his own expense—there was universal enjoyment in beholding it.

Meek remained in Washington, a guest of President Polk, until the passage of the Organic Act, August 14th, 1848. Oregon was by this Act, constituted a Territory of the United States, and it became necessary to appoint its officers as quickly as possible in order that they might reach their field of action before the expiration of Polk's term of office. A commission was given Meek of U. S. Marshal; and he was entrusted with the duty of conveying to Gen. Joseph Lane, his commission as Governor of Oregon, with authority to take an escort of U. S. dragoons from Fort Leavenworth in the Kansas Territory, for their safe conduct across the plains. This was a very different order of travel from that he had pursued six months previous, when he had skulked through a thousand miles of Indian country almost alone, poor, ragged and often in danger of starving, to carry news to the government of the awful straight in which the little American colony in Oregon found itself.

By taking the southern route, or Sante Fe trail, the Oregon Governor and Marshal arrived in California in February, 1849, and in Oregon on the 2d of March, just in time for Lane to be proclaimed Governor of the new territory before the expiration of Polk's term. They found the Indians in a state of *armed tranquility*, waiting to see what the whites would do further to avenge the the murders of Wailatpu. Lane demanded the principal murderers from their tribe, and had them hanged, Meek officiating as executioner—a duty which he performed with less reluctance since one of his own children had been among the victims.

Meek was now at his prime, being about forty years of age; gay, handsome, and of a dignified carriage. He might have been wealthy, had he possessed either the avariciousness or the business acumen necessary to the accumulation of money. But not having either, the money that came into his hands slipped easily away. When the Territory became a State, offices passed into other hands, and the Pioneers rarely conducted its affairs. Meek thenceforth lived quietly upon his farm near Hillsboro, laboring little, and finding occupation in riding about the country or visiting the towns that he had seen grow up throughout the valley of the Wallamet. Wherever he went, a crowd of curious listeners were wont to gather, eager to hear, over and over, the tales of mountain adventure, or stories of pioneer times, that he so well knew how to make interesting or diverting. To those who knew him only in this character, he appeared simply as a humorist who could paint a scene as broadly as his audience demanded. But there was another side to his character not so well understood—that, had his mother lived to cultivate it, or had he married a refined woman of his own race, who would have developed it, would have been conspicuous for its gentleness, generosity and courtesy. In the presence of women he was courtly and gallant to a degree very remarkable in a man who had lived so adventurous a life. Notwithstanding his lively temperament, personal beauty, and uncongenial domestic relations, it was never reported of him that he was untrue to his marriage-bond. The blame of his position he took upon himself; though in reviewing the circumstances of his life there seems not much real blame attaching to it. It was unfortunate rather than blameworthy.

Many are the humorous sayings that will long be remembered in Oregon of which Meek was the author; one of the best known of which probably is his reply to a young Englishman, who in rather an affected manner, was inquiring of him concerning the changes which he, still a young man, and only a few years a resident in the country, had seen in Oregon. "Changes?" said Meek, with great animation, "Why, when *I* came to Oregon, Mount Hood was a *hole in the ground!*"

Concerning his indifference to money, and his love of reputation, Hon. Jesse Applegate relates that there being two offices at his disposal under the Provisional Government, one with some emoluments, and the other with only glory, the choice was offered Meek, who quickly responded—"Give me the one with the glory!"

I, myself, once asked why he brought his Nez Perce wife to the white settlements—why he did not leave her with her people? "I could't do it," he replied, "she had children, and I could not take them away from her." On my suggesting that he could have left them with her, and cut loose entirely

from his mountain life, he replied, tapping his breast in the region of the heart, "I could not do that, it *hurt here*."

He was a kind husband and father; proud of his children and ready to sacrifice himself for them. His family, seven in number, resided with the mother, near Hillsboro, until recently, when two of the daughters married and removed to other States. Of his three sons, all remain upon the farm, with the elder and younger sister, and all are devoted to the Nez Perce mother, who sincerely mourns her widowhood.

The title of "Colonel" which attached to Meek, was altogether honorary, he never having held a commission. But his military air, and the willingness with which he performed military duty when called upon, his Marshal's costume, decorated with the U. S. buttons, and similar causes, led to the adoption of the title that seemed so naturally to belong to him. His horsemanship was perfect, and his appearance upon horseback in his office of Marshal extremely imposing; circumstances that inevitably suggested a title.

Such are some of the characteristics, and such some of the circumstances belonging to the subject of this sketch. In the "River of the West," the future historian will find preserved many details too voluminous for the purposes of this Association.

Colonel Meek died of inflammation of the stomach, June 20th, 1875, after an illness of two weeks, exhibiting in his suffering and death the same patience and self-abnegation which had always distinguished him. Mourned by his family, and regretted by hundreds of neighbors and friends, as well as by the members of the Association.

PIONEER DAY.

It is generally conceded that the suggestion of the fifteenth of June for the annual meeting of the Pioneers was a good one, and has done much to make the meetings a success. In the selection of this day, both the useful and beautiful are promoted. It is the most convenient and pleasant season of the year for an out of door meeting; and is the leisure season of the farming community, who constitute the greater portion of the people and the Pioneers. It also serves to commemorate the final acknowledgment by Great Britain of the American right to the country and the triumph of the Pioneer in the race for the pre-occupation of it.

It will be seen from the following letter, a copy of which has been obtained from Judge Grim, that Hon. Stephen F. Chadwick is the author of the suggestion and that to him we are indebted for this happy choice of what we venture to call PIONEER DAY.

SALEM. Nov. 19th, 1873.

JUDGE GRIM, VICE PRESIDENT OF O. P. A.

DEAR SIR.—Some of our Pioneer's feel as if the meeting of our folks should be in the spring. In June would be the best time I think. I would call your attention to the 15th of June as a very appropriate day for the meeting. In 1846, June 15th, the treaty with Great Britain settling the boundary of Oregon was signed at Washington, by James Buchanan on our part, and by Richard Pakenham on the part of Great Britain. These Plenipotentiaries were appointed by the respective nations to settle the limits of Oregon "westward of the Rocky Mountains," making the boundary the 49th parallel. By this treaty, all those considering themselves British subjects before, or nearly all, became citizens of the United States and recognized the American government over them. It is a fine idea connected with this circumstance. By this treaty, all those hailing from the two different nations, now accepted the situation and became American citizens and pioneers of one great people. All born abroad, all from different

parts, still by this treaty brought under one flag, one government, and enable to work in harmony for their common interest. The event is a good one an belongs to the Pioneers. It is true this treaty was not proclaimed until the 5t of August, 1846, still it was signed and became the law on the 15th of Jun 1846.

If a change is made to spring, the 15th of June is the best time for the meetin The 5th of August is in the midst of harvest, otherwise that would do. Th 15th of June is a season of rest, if there is such a thing in Oregon.

You will find this treaty in the laws of the United States, Vol. 9, page 86 also in Judge Deady's Code, page 55. By the aid of this letter you will unde stand the dates therein mentioned. Please get the Code and read the treat and let me know what you think of the idea.

Yours truly,

S. F. CHADWICK.

AURORA, MARION COUNTY, OREGON,
November 23d, 1875.

HON. S. F. CHADWICK:

DEAR SIR:—I thank you for your suggestion of the 15th of June, as the prope time for the annual meeting of the Oregon Pioneers. It is a good day, and i belongs to the Pioneers. I have written to President F. X. Mathiew, W. H Rees, Dr. Wm Keil, E. C. Cooley and others, and all agree with you that th 15th of June, in remembrance of that day in 1846, when the final settlement c the vexed question of boundary of Oregon was brought about between the con tending powers, is a suitable day for our re-unions, and I have no doubt whe the Association meets, it will set apart the 15th of June as the anniversary da of the Pioneers of Oregon, according to your suggestion.

Yours very truly,

J. W. GRIM.

SONG OF THE PIONEERS.

The following song was composed by Mr. S. A. Clarke, for the occasion and sung by Prof. T. H. Crawford, who was assisted by several young ladies, at the re-union of the Oregon Pioneer Association, held at Salem, June 15, 1875. It was the intention to put the song in its proper place in the proceedings of the celebration, but was inadvertantly omitted.

I

Oh! So many years have flown,
Since the news of Oregon,
Reached our homes beyond the mountains far away;
Since we harnessed up our teams,
When the Spring-time's sunny gleams,
Showed the path across the plains and mountains grey.

CHORUS.

Tramp, tramp, tramp, the trains came marching,
Westward, still westward, see them come!
Sometimes savage tribes they fought,
But the starry flag they brought,
While beneath its folds each freeman found a home.

II

Up the Rocky Mountain' height,
Now their camp-fires blaze by night:
Or upon the savage plains they thickly gleam;
Now the weary legions pass,
Where the frowning canyons mass,
Or they swim and ford the swiftly running stream.

CHORUS.

Tramp, tramp, tramp, the trains came marching;
Westward, still westward, day by day,
Standing guard the live-long night;
Ever ready for the fight;
Here to plant our flag three thousand miles away.

III.

Through the land of savage foes,
See, the long procession goes,
Till it camps upon Columbia of the West;
Where the mountains block the stream,
And the Cascades flash and gleam,
As the sun sinks to his distant ocean rest.

CHORUS.

Tramp, tramp, tramp, the trains came marching,
At length the deadly plains are passed;
But there's still the river trail,
Or the Cascade Range to scale,
Then the fair Willamette homes are reached at last.

IV.

And 'tis well that Pioneers
Should thus meet with passing years,
While the locks that once were dark are turning snow,
To recall the olden story,
That shall be their children's glory,
How we crossed the plains and mountains long ago.

CHORUS.

Tramp, tramp, tramp, the trains came marching,
Singing and marching to the West;
Till all dangers were behind,
And the homes we came to find,
Smiled upon us from Willamette's Vale of Rest.

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